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THE
MIDLAND FLORIST,
AND
SUBURBAN HORTICULTURIST.

CONDUCTED BY
JOHN FREDERICK WOOD, F.H.S.

VOL. IX.
JANUARY TO DECEMBER, 1855.

" To study culture, and with artful toil,
To mellorate and tame the stubborn soil ;
To give dissimilar, yet fruitful lands,
The grain, or herb, or plant that each demands ;
To cherish virtue in an humble state,
And share the joys your bounty may create ;
To mark the matchless workings of the power
That shuts within its seed the future flower ;
Bids these in form of elegance excel,
In colour these, and those delight the smell ;
Sends nature forth, the daughter of the skies,
To dance on earth, and charm all human eyes ;
To teach the canvass innocent deceit,
Or lay the landscape on the snowy sheet.—
These, these are arts pursued without a crime,
That leave no stain upon the wing of time."

COWPER.

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THE
MIDLAND FLORIST.

ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

BRIEF REJOINDER TO MR. LIGHTBODY'S CRITICISM
ON MY TULIP NOTES.

BY MR. WILLIAM HARRISON, SECRETARY TO THE FELTON UNION
OF FLORISTS AND HORTICULTURISTS.

I HAVE just read Mr. James Lightbody's criticism on my tulip notes, published in your August and September numbers, and as his remarks contain rather too much acidity to be acceptable to the generality of your readers, I beg to trespass on your space with the following brief reply. Mr. Lighthody very charitably attributes what he is pleased to denominate "the prevailing error" in my descriptions to my "*inexperience*," but when I inform him that I have devoted the leisure of nearly twenty years to the tulip fancy, I think he must admit that I have served a tolerable apprenticeship. His remarks, if not contradicted, might induce some of your readers to imagine that I had represented some of the

varieties in question better than they are, from *interested motives*; but as I am neither connected with the trade myself, nor have any friends so connected, my sole object has been to advocate the usefulness of descriptive catalogues, for the benefit of young amateurs, and especially to try to preserve them from disappointment and disgust, by preventing them from purchasing varieties unworthy of their notice. If I have in any instance succeeded in doing this, my object has been fully accomplished, and I shall "pursue the even tenour of my way," so long as the pages of the *Midland Florist* are open to me. I have ever been anxious to praise varieties which were really good and deserving of commendation, while at the same time I have never hesitated to speak freely of those which did not maintain their character. This has evidently been the "very head and front of my offending," Mr. Editor, and I crave your patience while I follow Mr. Lightbody *seriatim* through the list of varieties he has chosen to comment upon. He accuses me of giving such loose descriptions that it is impossible to know whether the variety described is a rose, byblœmen, or bizarre, but I think, as all tulip collectors possess catalogues, that they can find no difficulty in this respect. Certainly I described Willison's King as pillared in the style of Holmes's King, but surely the readers of the *Midland Florist* are too familiar with Mr. Willison's flowers to imagine for a moment that I was describing his King as a byblœmen. Mr. L. begins his list with

La Vandicken, which he describes as long in the cup and wanting rotundity of outline, with a heavy flame. Here it is a fine middle-row rose, with rich feather and *slight* flame, and quite pure. J. Davidson, Esq. also describes it as a *good* fourth-row rose, and finds no fault with its shape.

Surpass Catafalque.—Mr. Bromfield had a pair of this variety, last season, as lovely gems as ever were grown. They were as pure as gold, with a beautiful feather, but were newly imported from Holland.

Smith's Duke of Wellington.—Mr. L. describes this as not worth a place in a fine collection. I have a vivid recollection of

this flower, which was a beautifully cupped, but rather tri-colored variety, with a rich dark feather, on a strawy white ground colour; cup extra fine, and bottom and stamens quite pure.

Marcellus.—Mr. L. describes this as possessing a *grizzlyness*, which runs through the ground colour, and says he has never seen it without this fault. Now this flower really seems steady, and always clean and fine here; and at page 166, vol. 4, of the *Midland Florist*, J. Davidson, Esq. speaks of this flower thus:—"The original and true one is bright lemon ground, a well-marked flame, and *very steady*." Again, at page 99, vol. 6, Mr. J. Orchard also speaks of this variety as "a pale lemon-coloured feathered bizarre, with feather nearly black, cup good, and stamens pure." There is no account of any *grizzlyness* in these descriptions of this flower, from different localities, and therefore Mr. L. must admit that the evidence against him is very strong. He has evidently got a wretchedly bad strain, and the sooner he throws his stock of it to *the pigs* the better. Marcellus was also shown, it appears, by S. Sanders, Esq., of Staines, this season, at the Horns Tavern, Kennington, in the leading stand of nine, and surely nothing but first-class tulips could have gained so prominent a position, the censors being Messrs. Goldham, Lawrence, Willmore, and *Lightbody*.

Alexander's Jenny Lind.—The superlative Jenny! This was indeed a magnificent feathered rose, at Felton Mills, this season, and one of the grandest middle-row roses that I have ever met with. It was *quite pure*, large in the cup, with a grand heavy feather of dark scarlet. What is there to compare with it as a middle-row rose, I would like to know? There can be little doubt that it is the very first break out of the Magnificent breeders, and I repeat that it deserves all that I have said about it. It is a fine contrast to Alexander's Triumph, with fine, regular, and delicate feather, which threatens to throw our old friend, Heroine, quite into the shade.

Lyde's Lord Strathmore.—This *may* be broken from a Devonshire breeder, but it generally comes with quite a different character, being usually slightly feathered and flamed, while *the Duke* almost always has a *heavy* feather, or feather and flame. It is also rather richer on the outside than the Duke, and unquestionably a fine flower.

Lightbody's Kosciusko.—Mr. L. thinks I have seen a very bad strain of this flower, and yet my description of it is more favourable than his own. My disappointment arose from finding it long in the cup and flamed three-fourths of the length of the petal. Mr. L. tells us now that it is inclined to be *long in the cup and a little pointed*, and yet he adds that it is "one of the most attractive flowers in cultivation." Are

we, Mr. Editor, living in an age when the form of the tulip is of any consequence? or are we not? We have an old proverb in the north, that "every crow thinks her own egg whitest," and really I think that Mr. L.'s description here is an illustration of the truth of the adage.

Headly's Britannia.—I described this flower as I found it,—a richly flamed bybloemen, but the bottom quite blue.

Camarine, Mr. L. informs us, always comes yellow in the bottom, and neve bleaches. Mr. Bromfield grew it, last season, a noble bybloemen, with fine feather and beautifully pencilled flame. Quite pure, and very superior.

Jeffrey's Rose Elizabeth.—Mr. L. says this is tight in the bottom of the cup, with narrow petals, and soon quarters. I saw no symptoms of quartering about it. It was a most lovely light feathered rose, and a trifle of flame. I consider it a real gem, and a decided acquisition. It is said by some to be the same as Goldham's Gem.

Glenny's Duke of Northumberland.—Mr. L.'s remarks on this flower are as far from correct as the poles are asunder. He actually tells us that its great defect is *bad shape*, whereas it is in this respect a complete model, and one of the very few tulips that exactly and completely comes up to the "HARDY STANDARD;" and then the fine dark purple heavy feather and flame contrast so beautifully with the ground colour of snowy whiteness, that I really wonder how anybody can see it without being delighted with it. The bloom I sent to Mr. Wood, two or three years ago, was a complete gem, and his opinion was so high, that he said *it would please anybody*. This, from a person of *his experience*, is enough.

Dark's Don Cossack.—This, instead of being "green in bottom and, when heavy, quite foul," is a grandly feathered and flamed bizarre, on a *rich* yellow ground. Flaming very regular and beautiful, colour very dark, and altogether a most attractive bizarre.

Rose Brilliant, whatever *alias* it has, has a fine starry flame and very distinct. Cup quite pure.

Rutley's Queen.—This, instead of being long and loose, with soft flimsy petals, and bottom quite yellow, was, at Felton Mills, a very grand bybloemen indeed, with slight feather and no flame. Colour a rich purple. A noble flower. Cup rather creamy at first, but soon bleached.

Pompe Funebre.—Mr. L.'s description of this flower does not differ materially from mine, except that he says it is long and narrow in the cup. But the best strain, with just the fine black feather, is, no doubt, a very handsome flower.

Clark's Duke of Wellington.—A finely-feathered and slightly-flamed bizarre, very much like a fine strain of Polyphemus. Mr. L. says it is as much like Polyphemus as is Everard. I found it, however, as much like the strain of Polyphemus

which I got some years ago, from the late Rev. J. Tyso, as two beans are to each other.

Haward's Magnificent.—Undoubtedly this flower is loose and yellow in the bottom, and never could create a sensation as a show flower. As a *bed* flower, however, it is very gorgeous and well named.

Willison's King.—Mr. L. informs us that this flower has a rich ground colour, and does promise to be very fine. It is a new style of bizarre. But what that style is, his description does not inform us. With me, it was rich in ground colour, and a good cup, but pillared in the style of Holmes's King, and without feather; while Mr. Slater says that it is long in the cup, and petals not a good shape, all that he has seen, being oval, instead of being rather balloon shaped. So much for the appearance of a flower in different localities.

Lawrence's Milton.—Mr. L. informs us that this is only a coarse Duke of Devonshire. But if so, how does it happen that it is so prolific, while Dickson's Duke is well known to be very shy in this respect? I cannot reconcile these two facts.

I have now followed Mr. James Lightbody to his *finale*, but I cannot perceive that his communication has done any good, or thrown any additional light upon the subject, for in many of his descriptions he signally fails; and I do hope that his next criticisms will be founded on more certain data.

He then turns very complacently to the old question, What is perfection of form in the tulip? and quietly consigns Messrs. Glenny, Groom, and Hardy to floral oblivion, "at one fell swoop," for having settled the matter, as he good naturedly says, to their own satisfaction. It is not for me to enlarge on this question, as I consider it already settled; and I will, therefore, leave him to the tender mercies of these gentlemen. Mr. Glenny generally speaks out pretty plainly, and the following remarks from his pen are very *apropos* at the present time:—"If any florist will take up my 'Properties of Flowers and Plants,' and temperately question the originality, or object to any of the principles in the spirit of fair discussion, for improvement, I shall not have much trouble to establish that I am right, or much hesitation in acknowledging that I am wrong; but I would pass those gentlemen who fancy they know a good deal, while in fact they

are merely reading other people's works, and dabbling in what they do not individually understand. I am now alluding to sundry writers who fancy they are burning their own lamps before the floricultural world, when they have merely taken up somebody else's, which most of the observers can identify."— (*Vide Midland Florist*, vol. 3, p. 73.)

As for Dr. Hardy's luminous papers on this subject, in the pages of the *Midland Florist*, it is now pretty generally admitted that they have raised their author to the summit of floral reputation, and any attempt to upset his standard now would just be as difficult as it would be to convince the floricultural world at the present day that a flower "inclined to be long in the cup and a little pointed, is one of the most attractive flowers in cultivation."

I beg to apologise for the length to which this rejoinder has extended, but I could not make it more brief, in justice to the subject and to myself. I shall not, however, trespass on you again, on this subject, till after next year's bloom, and heartily wish you and the readers of the *Midland Florist* a happy new year.

West Thirston, December 12, 1854.

MIDLAND DISTRICT CARNATION AND PICOTEE SOCIETY.

WE give publicity to the institution of this society with great pleasure. At page 126 of our volume for last year, we published a circular we had received, announcing the formation of the Northern Counties Carnation and Picotee Society, prefacing the same with a few remarks of our own, because one or two passages, unintentionally, we make no doubt, seemed to place that society in conflict with the National. We there stated the pleasure with which we learnt the establishment of floral societies, recognizing in

them, when properly conducted, a powerful tendency to elevate the mind and to supersede enjoyments of a questionable character. We expressed our approval of *district* societies, thinking them, in fact, only second to the more important meetings of the National, but we urged that the principle of the National exhibitions should be preserved in its integrity, and as one of its great aims was the assimilating of opinions, no encouragement should be offered to anything which might *tend* to prevent the gathering together of *florists from every district, at least once a year*. We are glad to find, in the onset of this society, the good to be thus effected fully recognized. The following extract from a communication we have received will exhibit the objects its promoters have in view:—"To continue and still further develope the interest created by the recent exhibition of the National Carnation and Picotee Society, at Derby, as well amongst the growers of these flowers (the carnation and picotee) as the public, has seemed to several persons devoted to their culture, most desirable, and after some correspondence, it has been determined to organize a Midland District Carnation and Picotee Society, its meetings to be alternately at the different towns interested,—those towns being Sheffield, Chesterfield, Derby, Burton-upon-Trent, Birmingham, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leicester, Nottingham, and Stamford; and it being purposed that the florists in these localities only shall be specially addressed, though each meeting shall be open to all comers, excepting such as may be rejected for valid reasons, by the management for the time being. In founding this exhibition, the promoters have been especially careful to have it distinctly understood that the society is in no way to be a rival, or to be put in opposition to the National Carnation and Picotee Society. It is rather as an adjunct to that meeting, and as a nucleus for its reception in any future years that it is to be regarded. The society now proposed will not attempt

to rival the National, or its prizes, or to attract the cultivators of the flowers by prizes of large value. It will strive rather to interest the cultivator by its social features, and to promote union of opinion and purpose, at the same time that it shall elevate him, by placing his productions worthily before the public." We heartily commend the society to all who love these flowers. Communications may be addressed to Mr. Hewitt, Chesterfield; Mr. Dodwell, Derby; Mr. Marris and Mr. Hollyoake, Leicester; and Mr. I. S. Hedderley, Nottingham. In future numbers, we shall state where the first exhibition will be held.

A FEW REMARKS ON THE POLYANTHUS.

BY MR. SAMUEL HAMMOND.

I HAVE been led to some of the following remarks by the question, How is it, having raised so many seedlings, we have none out in your name? The answer is simply, because, with one exception, till within this last four or five years, there has been none that I considered worthy of such distinction. All who are acquainted with me know I have no little pride in a good polyanthus, which would be ill suited with a third or fourth-rate flower, and I have not the least hesitation in saying, scores have been consigned to the rubbish heap, which others have declared worthy of cultivation. About sixteen years since, I raised a first-rate sort from Lakin's Geo. Canning, an old variety, rechristened and sold out of late years as Clegg's Lord Crewe. It was, in my opinion, taking it altogether, the finest flower I shall ever live to see, but I believe I killed it with kindness, one great error we are all more or less liable to, being over anxious to preserve that which we often destroy. Had this flower been treated in the ordinary way, it might have thriven and done well. Among the seedlings named and sent out within the last few

years, there are several that would not, I am sure, have any chance in competition, against many of our old varieties, having nothing more to recommend them than being seedlings, and consequently new. A third or fourth-rate flower cannot now be tolerated. We have already too many old ones, which are grown year after year, but never found in the prize list. In my humble opinion, if there were only half the competition there is in most other classes of florists' flowers, we should speedily see two-thirds of those that appear on the catalogues of the present day cast out as worthless. I find, in 1837, my book numbers forty-eight varieties by name; at the present time, they only amount to thirty-two, and some of these are under condemnation. But I have much consolation in saying there are several seedlings that will not only be worthy of a name, but will also be found equal, if not superior, to most of our old established favourites. Yet it must not be expected that they can be in many hands at present, as, with the greatest amount of success, it will require five or six years to enable the raisers to possess sufficient stock for sending out. As I have obtained most of them, I shall, if spared, have the opportunity, next blooming season, of giving full particulars. I have also been favoured, for trial, with several seedling plants, of which the raisers have high hopes, and, with a deep sense of gratitude for their kindness, I can assure them, it will be a source of much gratification to me to find them to fully equal their expectations. As many persons are at this time devoting their attention to raising seedlings, I would strongly recommend the sowing seed only from such as are in perfect health. However fine the bloom, if the plant be not perfectly healthy, I should not think the seed worth gathering. I may perhaps be allowed to relate a fact which will show some semblance of reason in support of this opinion. In 1849, I bloomed a remarkably fine truss of Earl Grey. The plant, up to blooming, appeared perfectly healthy,

but soon after, it showed symptoms of decay, and ultimately died, but by cutting off the flower stem several weeks before the seed was ripened, wrapping the lower end in moss, bound loosely with worsted, and placing it in a window facing the north east, and regularly moistening the moss every morning, I succeeded in getting a small portion fit for sowing, and it produced fourteen plants. They progressed slowly, yet all bloomed in 1851, and taking them collectively, were the best batch of seedlings I ever knew from one sowing, but so delicate in habit that they have all died off, with the exception of one, which has bloomed every season, yet I have never been able to get a second plant. It thus appears that the seed was affected with the disease of the parent. Some persons may be inclined to attribute this failure to the cutting of the stem, but I have frequently practised this under other circumstances, as when a plant is over strong and vigorous, the seed vessels will remain green much beyond the usual time, and the seed often be too late for autumnal sowing, which I much prefer to that of spring, providing the plants can be got up with sufficient strength to stand the winter. The seed vessels, in such case, should be wrapped in tissue paper, and laid in a window facing the south for a few days, until they open and shed the seed freely, when it will be fit for sowing, and with much more certainty of vegetating than if deferred till spring. Having tried most of the varieties, and been very particular in marking each sort to name when sown, it may not be uninteresting to give the results. The last four years, I have succeeded in obtaining three good seedlings, which will be a tolerable guarantee that the mode of selection, and the sorts saved from, are very superior to those of former years, when hundreds after hundreds were thrown away as useless, through indiscriminately gathering seed from any sort that might produce it. I must admit, my present practice is one of no ordinary sacrifice, but if, by such prac-

tice, we can obtain good flowers in the same ratio as above stated, the sacrifice is more than counter-balanced. I will, in the first place, name a few sorts from which I have repeatedly sown seed, and failed in getting anything good:—Pearson's Alexander, Buck's George IV., Freebloomer, Cox's Regent, Lord Rancliffe, and Traveller. Although the last-named variety is said to be the parent of my favourite Lord Lincoln, it has never produced me a seedling worth a rush. Kingfisher, in three sowings, nothing good,—at least as far as the requirements of the present day. It is now not enough that we obtain flowers of good form and lacing, to do which, I find not the least difficulty of late; but a flower with only three or four pips, like Cox's Regent and several other of the old varieties, is of no use against those we possess in the present day, with from nine to twelve pips each. The following are the sorts I have succeeded with:—Cheshire Favourite, generally of fine form and lacing, truss medium, anthers rather deficient, yet a very small portion of them pin-eyed, as we term it. Lord Lincoln, remarkably fine truss, good form, lacing generally too broad, and apt to be coarse. Lakin's George Canning, twice very fine, but the majority pin-eyed. Earl Grey, more certain than any of the above, but has now become so scarce that very few possess it, although at one time it was so plentiful that I sold it at six shillings per dozen. The best seedlings I possess are from the one raised from Earl Grey, before alluded to, and my sowing of the present season is all from seedlings. But to the sacrifice before alluded to, and which I intend to practice alternately, by saving seed once in two years,—it is too much to follow up every season. Last spring, I cut off eighty-four blooms, in order to secure my seed satisfactorily. After deciding upon what shall be allowed to seed, I get a small stake, and tack a piece of lath across it; I tie the stem to the upright stake, and cover the truss with a piece of fine lace, gathering it round and tying it close at the

bottom. Yet, with this precaution, many of the pips are spoilt by the woodlouse, one of the worst enemies we have to contend with. As I consider a pip spoilt if the least damaged, it is cut off, and many heads with nine or ten pips have been reduced to two or three before ripened. I have now, from ten heads of this year's sowing, only about four score plants, from which I have great expectations. Before closing this imperfect paper, I may just state that I have twice attempted hybridization, but with such ill success that I think I shall not try it again. Whether from my unskilful mode of performing the operation, or from some other cause, I cannot say, but the flowers produced were certainly the greatest deformities ever beheld. It seemed as though dame nature were casting a smile of derision on my attempt at being clever.

Alfreton-road, New Radford, Nov. 22, 1854.

THE STANWICK NECTARINE AND WALBURTON LATE ADMIRABLE PEACH.

I HAVE several times seen the Stanwick Nectarine noticed by you, and as I have had an opportunity of both fruiting and tasting it, I have determined to give you the result of my experience. I procured a plant from Mr. Rivers, in the spring of 1852, and placed it in a newly-erected peach house, where it made very vigorous growth. In the spring of the present year it was a complete mass of blossom, and I believe at least a hundred fruit set, of which I allowed twenty-seven to remain. Of these twenty-seven, ten dropped while stoning, although not a fruit of the other peaches and nectarines in the house dropped. Of the remaining seventeen, scarcely one ripened without cracking,—some of them split quite through stone and all, so that they were anything but fitting to send to table. As regards appearance,

it is very coarse; in flavour, good, but not better than some others with which I am acquainted. It is large in size,—one of my fruit weighed nine ounces and a quarter. In my opinion, it is not worth cultivating, as in a peach house it is very difficult to ripen, and as a wall fruit it would be a complete failure. I have destroyed my plant, and filled up its place with a better known variety, and would in no case advise any of your readers to be troubled with it.

While speaking on this subject, allow me to say a word or two in favour of the Walburton Late Admirable Peach. I have a plant at the coldest end of my house, and I find it very useful in keeping up a succession of fruit. I began gathering from the early peaches on the 21st of June, and had not finished gathering the Walburtons until the fourth of September. It is a fine-looking large fruit, of excellent flavour, a good bearer, and sure setter. In my opinion, where there are three peach trees in a house, this ought to be one.

W. S. M. M.

December 2nd, 1854.



WEEPING TREES.

SEVERAL of our readers having desired a short account of some of the most handsome trees of this description, we will endeavour to comply with their request,—not only because we are desirous of bringing these beautiful objects into more extensive cultivation, as well as to give our querists the information they seek, but also because, as we write, it affords us the greatest gratification to picture their graceful forms in our mind's eye. Few there are, we think, who do not appreciate the graceful character of the Weeping Willow (*Salix Babylonica*), forming, as it often does,

“a beautiful pendant” to some sunny landscape. We have seen it growing luxuriantly by the side of streams, and on the dry hill top (as at Bramcote, Notts.), far away from the influence of moist subsoil or running waters. It is an appropriate plant for covering a mausoleum, or grave; and, amongst many noted spots, the tomb, at St. Helena, which was the first resting place of the remains of Napoleon, was overshadowed by a willow of this description, though varying, we believe, in some botanical minutæ, from the species. Cuttings from this, under the name of Napoleon’s Willow, have, in various parts, formed large trees, but, from the removal of the ashes of the Emperor to France, have now lost much of the interest formerly attached to them. Another very graceful and distinct sort, is the American Weeping Willow, with small foliage and slender branches. This requires to be grafted on a tall stem, and then forms a very interesting tree. There is also the Bedford Weeping Willow, not so pendulous as either of the preceding, yet a very nice variety, and worthy of extensive cultivation. A yet newer variety is the Kilmarnock Weeping Willow, with broader foliage, and perfectly distinct from any of the preceding.

Then we have the Weeping Birch, with its dark waving tresses, and the trunk covered with its silvery bark, certainly one of the most attractive trees in the mountain landscape. This variety will come tolerably true from seed, though the young plants may not very early show their drooping properties; yet the pendulous may be selected from the upright, amongst a great batch of seedlings, merely by running the finger and thumb up the leading shoot. Those that will eventually weep, will be found as rough as sand paper, whilst the others will be perfectly smooth. There is another variety, of rather recent introduction, which requires grafting on a tall stem, and rivals the previous one in beauty.

Of thorns, there are now several weeping varieties, and very beautiful they are. Queen Mary's is one of the oldest, but is not so pendent as some of the others, while young. The Variegated Weeping Thorn, though a very beautiful thing, does not make so much progress as is desirable. It gets stunted and sickly, and we fear will always convey with its appearance the idea of consumption. The New Weeping Thorn, however, is most beautifully pendulous, equally so with the *Salix Babylonica*, first mentioned. We have seen it with gracefully-curved shoots, of one season, three feet in length. It is a most desirable variety. Then there is the Weeping *Pyracantha*-leaved Thorn. This, with us, is more delicate and tender than the preceding, and from our knowledge of it, we cannot say much in its favour.

In addition to the above, and with which, for this month, our querists must be satisfied, is the Weeping Mountain Ash, extremely pendulous, and certainly a great addition to this class of trees. A sub variety of this has beautifully variegated foliage, equally pendent, but the leaves mottled with rich orange, which gives it a very picturesque effect.

[To be continued.]

NORTH OF ENGLAND SEEDLING SOCIETY.

IN the last number of the *Midland Florist*, you inserted the prospectus and rules of the above society; and presuming that that document is now open to criticism, I must beg you to insert the following remarks on it in your pages.

Fully acquiescing in the introductory remarks, as to the pleasure and interest attached to the pursuit of floriculture; and admitting the possibility that the major part of the new flowers now cultivated in the northern districts, may have been originated in the

south,—though this point was strongly contested by Mr. Slater, of Cheetham Hill, Manchester, some few years ago,—I do not imagine I am stepping out of my way when I state that an explicit and manly reply is required, in explanation of the assertion so prominently and pointedly made in the paragraph respecting the censorship of the intended new society. It is there stated that “the system of playing into each other’s hands, by granting certificates of merit to each other’s productions, deserves universal exposure and the severest reprobation; but the projectors of the society, and the “parties” who drew up the prospectus, do not appear to have been imbued with the smallest particle of candour, as they withhold the names of the persons alluded to, and are also entirely silent as to what part of the kingdom it is to which they refer, in their innuendo, leaving it entirely to the conjecture of the reader. I may be pardoned for saying that it appears to me that they have, through the medium of the *Floricultural Review*, a periodical which did not survive its infancy, imbibed some of the spleen and antipathy to fair dealing so manifestly apparent in its editor, who, although he adopted the motto, “be just, and fear not,” when noticing, in that work, a meeting of the National Floricultural Society, at which Mr. Beck presided, added, in italics, a “*N.B. His own seedlings were shown for certificates,*” and thus endeavoured to raise an ungenerous and ungentlemanly inference, that the censors were biassed by the presence of the chairman of the meeting, because his plants were placed for competition. This is nearly a parallel to the point complained of above. But for the honour of floriculture, and on behalf of all *honest florists*, it is earnestly wished that the name of the locality where “the playing into each other’s hands” is rife, should at once be made public; and that, at the same time, a list of the new plants for which “monstrous prices” have been obtained, but which afterwards proved

to be of the "most contemptible character," should be given with such information. Indeed it appears to me, that unless some such steps are taken, the statement relative to granting certificates, as well as the assertion that "thousands" have been completely victimized, will be of no avail.

An assertion is very easily made, and frequently at the hazard of veracity; but to prove it, requires some degree of skill and ingenuity. To illustrate this, I may instance the statement made by the promoters of the society, who allege that "the great number of first-rate flowers standing at the head of their class" are raised in the uncongenial north. If any person wishes to test the truth and value of this assertion, let him take a glance at the returns of the various pink shows which, for the last few years, have been held in the northern districts, and I am sure he will generally find the same variety year after year. Is this the mode in which the florists of the other parts of the kingdom make progress? I do not hesitate to say, that a greater improvement has been effected in this flower, by the southern and midland florists, than in any other florists' flower; for they have succeeded in raising varieties that are perfectly rose-leaved, in the full sense of the term, and not frilled and notched like a circular saw. Where, again, allow me to inquire, are their cinerarias, calceolarias, fuchsias, geraniums, carnations, picotees, and dahlias? I have heard of very few indeed that occupy the proud position of "head of their class." I hope to be enlightened on this as on other points.

Some portion of the rules are also open to objection, but as the editor of the present work has, in his usually kind and manly way, so admirably noticed them, I leave them entirely out of the question.

FLORISTA.

December, 1854.

NEW, RARE, OR GOOD FRUITS, FLOWERS, PLANTS, TREES, AND VEGETABLES.



NYPHÆA GIGANTEA. (*The Gigantic Water Lily.*)

—This magnificent water lily, from New Holland, has flowered for the first time in Europe, in the excellent establishment of M. Louis Van Houtte, at Ghent. Its very large and attractive flowers are borne on stout footstalks, and are well formed, and a fine indigo blue. In May last, the plant expanded its first buds, and, singular to relate, not a day has since passed without its having full-blown flowers on it. It will probably bloom nine months out of the twelve. M. Van Houtte has succeeded in saving a considerable quantity of seed, therefore we hope this fine addition to our aquatic plants will soon be better known.

RESEDA MYRIOPHYLLA. (*Cut-leaved Mignonette.*)

—A beautiful new species, more compact in its habit than the common sort.

BEAUTY OF MILRIG PHLOX.—This is a variety raised in Scotland, and of a rather new character, being white, with a yellow centre. The flowers individually are of good form, and make a large and attractive truss.

BEDDING GERANIUMS.—We have seen some very good things in this way,—hybridized varieties. *Quercifolium eximium*, for instance, has beautiful cut oaklike foliage, with small rich crimson flowers. *Virginianum*, remarkable for its profuse style of flowering, good habit, and white blossoms. *Glow Worm* will be a favourite, being a decided beat on that popular sort, Tom Thumb. Its flowers are very

rich scarlet, with dwarf compact habit. Decidedly first-rate for bedding.

RHODODENDRON LAWSONII.—A most handsome variety of a splendid class of evergreen shrubs, remarkable for its ample foliage and magnificent heads of bloom, each blossom being two and a half to three inches across. The colour is lively pink, with conspicuous and strongly-marked spots.

ILEX FURCATA.—We have again seen this very beautiful holly in first-rate style. It is so perfectly distinct, and belongs to a family connected with so many seasonable recollections, that we cannot recommend it too strongly to all who are fond of new and beautiful evergreens.

HELIOTROPIMUM LOUIS CHAIX.—This is a rich dark purple variety of this fragrant greenhouse and bedding plant, and doubtless will become popular for the flower border.

ACHIMENES AND GLOXINIAS are raised in quantities on the Continent. One of the most beautiful of the latter we saw at Lincoln, last year. It was *Leonie Van Houtte*, and certainly was a gem. *Achimenes Sir Treherne Thomas* ought also to be grown by everybody who cultivates this class of plants. It is a glowing crimson, and certainly is a splendid thing, and an excellent plant for exhibition. *Achimenes gigantea* is a novelty. It makes a fine plant, having handsome scarlet and deep yellow flowers.

FOREIGN PANSIES, GLOIRE DE BELLE VUE AND REINE DES PANACHES.—These certainly are large and attractive flowers, and we will give a translation of the highflown description of them. "These two varieties are, in the opinion of all who saw them during the last season of blooming, the two most beautiful flowers in existence. Like the beautiful

geraniums originated by the same amateur, they form a new type, calculated to very much improve this class of plants. Stronger growing and more floriferous than the English varieties, they have also larger and better defined eyes. Their flowers, which are larger, are borne on long footstalks, and they are also of very easy cultivation." This is all very well, but our readers will perhaps be surprised to learn that these flowers, so highly spoken of, and charged five francs each, would not be looked at by the English florist, the ground colour, in both cases, being white, shaded with yellow, a defect which has long been repudiated amongst the British fancy, and would as soon be tolerated as a stained tulip. Our readers may now please themselves about purchasing them as border flowers; they are pretty, but worthless as show flowers.

CAMELLIA TRICOLOR DE MATTHO.—This is a decided improvement on the old tricolor, being larger, more pure in the ground colour, and the rich scarlet stripes very showy. Still it wants form, and is not quite double.

SPIRÆA EXIMIA is a hardy shrub, somewhat in the style of *S. Douglasii*. The colour is brighter, and the trusses of flowers very large. It will make a good addition to our shrubberies.

THE SALWAY OR APRICOT PEACH, shown at the first meeting of the Pomological Society, from Colonel Salway, M.P. for Surrey, is a beautiful and first-rate fruit. The flesh is yellow, like an apricot, of most excellent flavour, and will, no doubt, be considered a very great addition to our wall fruits. Mr. Powell tells us, in the *Florist*, that it was originated from the stone of a St. Giovanni peach, brought from Florence, by Col. Salway, in 1844. It produced fruit for the first time in 1852. We have no doubt this will prove a far more valuable acquisition than

the Stanwick Nectarine, alluded to in our present number; and, from its hardiness and apparent fruitfulness, we should think it will be much in demand, and consequently a good nurseryman's tree.

NEW PEAS.—The list of varieties is long enough in all conscience, and we have seen catalogues this season with over FIFTY SORTS therein designated. However, as the chronicler of really good things, we must record *Epps's Monarch*. It is a tall marrow, and with good management, will bear for a long period, and that too the finest peas possible. In fact, it is said that no other variety can touch it for size. Mr. Epps is also introducing another to notice, which he calls *Monarch*. This does not grow so high as the preceding, but is very productive and excellent.

EXTRACTS, HINTS, AND RECOLLECTIONS.

ON THE CULTURE OF FRUIT TREES.

IN order to have good fruit in abundance, it is not enough to plant trees of the best species and in the best qualities of soils,—it is necessary, at the same time, to manage them. Without doubt, it is important in the culture of a fruit tree to regulate its vegetation, by judicious pruning, pinching and nipping of buds, applied in due season; but there are other cares in detail, which are not the less of consequence to bring about the consummation devoutly to be wished. We understand by that the abundant and uninterrupted produce of fruits combining all the qualities proper to their species. In order to obtain completely and satisfactorily this result, as much care, *cæteris paribus*, must be given to the roots as to

the branches of fruit trees. Every spring, the soil of fruit trees receives an overturning more or less deep; and to see the manner in which they execute this portion of their labours, one would infer that the majority of gardeners have not the slightest suspicion of its importance. It is, moreover, one of the best established facts in vegetable physiology, that the more the roots of fruit trees extend themselves parallel to the surface of the soil, at such a depth as to be exposed to the influence of the atmosphere, the greater will be the degree of the quality of the fruit produced. This is the reason, for example, in planting pear trees grafted on pear stocks, it is necessary to dispose their roots in such a manner that they extend themselves as much as possible in all directions. Again, it is the cause of the superiority of certain kinds of pears gathered from trees grafted on quince stocks, in open but strong soils; the roots of the quince take naturally the direction parallel to the surface of the soil, a direction it is somewhat difficult to make the roots of pears grafted on pear stocks take, naturally disposed as they are to plunge into the subsoil. These facts being admitted, then it is at once understood why the gardener does harm to the pears grafted upon quince stocks, when, in spring, he laboriously digs deeply over the soil in which their roots vegetate,—the more delicate, those which contribute the most to the vegetable life of the tree, and to the formation of fruit, are deranged, cut, and mutilated by the spade. It is not the more necessary, because the fruit buds flourish badly and the greater portion of the flowers fall, without the power of maturing the fruit. The inconvenience is the same, only in different degree, for apricots, plums, peaches grafted on plums, dwarf apples upon paradise stocks, all trees which by labour almost superficial, the spade is enabled to reach the roots most essential to manage. In the last edition of the *Pomone Francaise*, by the late Count Lelieur, of lamented memory, he insists most particularly upon the necessity of ab-

staining altogether from working the soil occupied by dwarf apples and gooseberries, confining himself to weeding alone, in order to maintain it for its purpose. He counsels superficial labour only for soil containing plantations of fruit trees of any species, and advises only delicately to fork over at the root, taking care to avoid the slightest damage to the roots. Let us also bear in mind that fruit trees should only receive *vegetable manure*, and that *fermented animal matters* injure them more or less, the more especially stone fruits. To those who deem these notions common, and not new, and that no person is supposed to ignore them, we reply, as in many like circumstances we have done already, "Everybody knows that, do you say? Yes, you are right; *everybody*!—*except the public*!"

G. R. A.



TULIP CATALOGUES.

HAVING it in contemplation for some time to trouble you with a few remarks on the above subject, I have been induced, from reading the excellent article in the last number of your periodical, from the pen of a Lancashire Amateur, in reference to the same, to ask a favour similar to that granted to him, by allowing me a space in your pages for a very few observations. The fancy for the tulip, in this locality, has for years been confined to two or three flowers; even at our horticultural fetes, we never have more than two exhibitors. This state of things is not from a want of taste for floriculture, as we have a large number of florists, whose talent and experience would enable them to compete successfully at any of your exhibitions; it arises solely from the causes hereinafter stated. To obtain a good collection, the young beginner has difficulties to contend against in making his selection;—first, the enormous price affixed to

different varieties, and next, the diversity of price as well as height. Now I have before me several tulip catalogues, issued from respectable establishments. In one, I find a number of first-class varieties (by name) at a low figure, say from two to five shillings each, to be planted in certain rows. In another catalogue, I have the same sorts priced at as many pounds, and in different rows. What is a purchaser to do in such a case? Is he not puzzled? Must he not come to the conclusion that either of these parties are dealing unfairly? If he applies to him who sells cheap, he is told the bulbs are of the purest strain, and in the very best condition. Should he make a similar application to him whose price is so much dearer, the reply will be, that good strains cannot be purchased for less. Why, in tulips, such a state of things should exist, I cannot account. In no other class of florists' flowers is there such dissimilarity in price to be found. If we look to the various lists of carnations, picotees, pinks, pansies, dahlias, hollyhocks, &c., we find, with very little difference, that they all agree. It may be said that tulips have a peculiarity about them not to be met with in other classes of florists' flowers, namely, their different strains, which regulates the price. In my humble opinion, that is not a sufficient reason to one who wishes to obtain good varieties, and is willing to pay for them. I am perfectly satisfied that if the venders of tulips would have a uniform price for prime sorts, and not have their lists encumbered with trash, which must mislead the purchaser, and ultimately injure the sale, we should have more growers and fewer victims. With respect to Mr. Groom's list, alluded to by your correspondent, I find the sum for Miss Eliza Seymour is one hundred guineas, instead of fifty, as stated by him; but that is not the only variety figured at such an enormous price, for we have two others, named after members of the noble house of Cambridge, at a like figure. What the object can be, in fixing so large a sum for each of

these varieties, I cannot conceive. It can scarcely be to please the vanity of the parties named. There is no tulip worth that amount, nor is there any person insane enough to give it, no matter how fond he may be of the fancy. In conclusion, I sincerely hope the excellent suggestion offered by your correspondent will be responded to by some respectable dealer, in whom growers will have confidence, which I firmly believe would go a great length in putting an end to a system of trickery that has long been attached to the sale of tulips. To the growers here it will be a great boon, for which I am certain they will be grateful.

ALPHA.

Dublin, 16th December, 1854.

A DESCRIPTIVE CATALOGUE OF TULIPS.

BY MR. JOHN SLATER, FLORIST, CHEETHAM HILL, NEAR
MANCHESTER.

"BE JUST, AND FEAR NOT."

[MR. SLATER, on a late visit to Nottingham, kindly offered us the use of his notes, from the *Record*, and we have availed ourselves of this permission, as doubtless he has seen many flowers which have not come under our notice, a description of which, we are sure, will be of service to our tulip-growing friends.]

No article is so interesting to the amateur florist as a true and descriptive catalogue of his favourites, but *the best out* has sickened him to such a degree, that when a really good thing is noticed, he cannot believe it. The last few years have teemed with puffing descriptions, written anonymously, not for a guide, but rather as *a take in*. It is well known that the practice has been, puff what I have, and I will return the compliment, and any one who really had a

good seedling, had to trust to the chapter of accidents for its introduction into notice. I speak from facts. I have sent specimens for opinion, not that I was not competent to form an opinion myself, but to conform to that custom which amateurs had thought necessary to prevent imposition, but which really was the means of causing it. First-rate specimens were totally overlooked, whilst others, known to be extremely faulty, were noticed in a peculiar manner, so as to escape detection. This state of things may be compared to the fable of the goose which laid golden eggs. The amateur laid golden eggs, and he was sacrificed to the god of money, so that there are now great difficulties to be overcome. The good old practice of class showing has been put aside, and in pan showing an inferior seedling can be put in without detriment to the stand, because the good old standards, like veterans, will cover the raw recruit in the back ground. In the north, few, if any, seedlings are offered for sale, unless they can take a good position in the class, and by that test their value is ascertained. I would much rather have a description of flowers given by the raiser than by anonymous writers, or by the raiser's friends, because the raiser's *character is at stake*. If he give a false description, his character for *veracity* is gone; but if a friend give one, the raiser can say it was not his doing, he was ignorant of it, and thus escapes censure, whilst the other is even doubted when he tells the truth. It must be admitted that this is a very great check upon the raiser; and if he is young in business, without integrity, he cannot expect to get patronage and support; but on the other hand, if honest, it will be said of him, I shall take his word, for I have invariably *found him correct*. Thus he increases his connection, and is respected by all. In the descriptive catalogue which I am about to present to the readers of the *Record*, the *past* will be an earnest of the *present* and *future*. In 1843, I published a descriptive catalogue, which obtained great support, and con-

sidered, as far as it goes, as a book of reference, I intend this as a continuation of it; and although I cannot altogether arrange it alphabetically, I trust it will meet with the same approbation as its predecessor. Nothing shall induce me to forfeit the *confidence of amateurs*; but, as far as human frailties will permit, I will do my duty *truly* and *faithfully*. I shall only describe varieties which I have seen in bloom, and from notes made upon the spot, and describing them by their natural and proper standard, taking for my basis of form a trifle above one-half of a circle.

Pucelle (Groom).—A third-row, bybloemen, bottom like *Roi de Siam*, petals narrow, cup long.

Lord John Russell.—A second-row bizarre, form good, stained under the stamens as well as on the top, the yellow ground good, and marks well.

Achilles.—A feathered bizarre of good form, the base darker than the ground colour, and the outside a pale yellow.

Milton.—The same as *Duke of Devonshire*.

Lady Herold.—A flamed bybloemen, good cup, the base yellow, and marks in the style of *Cleopatra*, or *Violet Wallers*.

Diogenes (Lawrence).—Very similar, if not the same, as *Lady Herold*.

Habit Nuptial.—A second-row bybloemen, long cup, petals narrow and thin.

Bijou (Lawrence).—A third-row flamed bybloemen, cup long, good bottom, creamy at opening.

Lady Douro (Groom).—A rosy bybloemen, hangs loose in the form, petals moderate in width, rather creamy at opening.

Lord Denman (Abbott).—A flamed bybloemen, raised in the neighbourhood of *Derby*, cup about the average, were it not for its tun-dish shape at the base; bottom greasy, or properly speaking, a *French white*; petals very beautifully formed at the top, and marks in the style of *Salvator Rosa*.

Marshal Soult (Groom).—A first-row feathered bizarre, good cup and bottom, ground colour a good yellow, feathered about the same colour as *San Joe*.

Princess Charlotte.—A second-row rose, in the style of *Aglaia*, but the base is not pure, being tinged under the stamens as well as on the top.

Ivanhoe (Saunders).—A rosy bybloemen, cup short, bottom pure, the petals stand like *Czarinne*, triangular.

Euphrates.—A third-row flamed bybloemen, cup good, bottom yellow, and petals narrow.

- Neptune*.—A fourth-row flamed tricolored bizarre, short cup, but for want of a shoulder, soon lies flat like a saucer. An excellent marker.
- Emperor Nicholas* (Lightbody).—A feathered bybloemen, in the style of Bienfait Incomparable, the cup short, the base bad.
- Rose Brathel* (Lawrence).—Very similar in character to Triomphe Royale.
- Lord Byron* (Franklin).—A second-row flamed bybloemen, the cup good, bottom impure, and stamens tinged.
- Iago* (Lawrence).—A third-row flamed bizarre, cup short and bottom pure, petals narrow.
- Lady Grey* (Haigh).—A second-row feathered rose, rather long cup, pure base, black stamens. A most splendid marker. It has been seen with pure stamens. Raised by Mr. John Haigh, of Ashton-under-Lyne, near Manchester.
- Forman's Lady Evelyn* is said by some to be Lady Grey. Some explanation is necessary why it has been renamed, as it is well known to be a seedling raised by the party whose name it bears.
- Glory of Abingdon*.—A third-row feathered bizarre, long cup, pure base, and is a steady-marking variety.
- Sphinx* (Headly).—Same as Duke of Devonshire.
- Splendid* (New).—A second-row flamed bybloemen, bottom not pure, but form good and dark colours. This variety is called a seedling, by Mr. New, but is nothing more than one grown at Stockport as Lord Vernon.
- Calypso* (Headly).—A fourth-row feathered bybloemen, very similar to Bienfait Incomparable in colour. Base not pure.
- Everard*.—A second-row flamed bizarre, good cup as well as bottom, a splendid variety, colours not quite so striking as Strong's King, but similar.
- Penelope* (Headly).—A third-row flamed bybloemen, bottom as well as stamens bad.
- Grisdelin Doux*.—A thin-petalled feathered rose, form very flimsy, but good bottom.
- Enterprise* (Saunders).—A flamed bizarre, short cup, pure base, petals narrow.
- Elizabeth* (Jeffries).—A rose, which comes feathered as well as flamed. The cup rather long, the bottom requires a little bleaching, and then it becomes pure.
- Lord Strathmore*.—Duke of Devonshire.
- Malibran* (Lawrence).—A second-row flamed bybloemen, form not good, stained stamens, narrow petals.
- Lord Hawkesbury*.—Query, same as Malibran.
- Commodus* (Jephson).—A flamed bybloemen, long cup, bottom creamy, slightly feathered.
- Vivid* (Saunders).—A second-row feathered bizarre, good form as well as pure bottom, the yellow good, and the feathering similar in colour to Surpasse Catafalque. First-rate.

Touchante (Madens).—A third-row tricolored bizarre, good cup and bottom, but no marking.

Irelandois.—A creamy flamed bybloemen, and it is doubtful whether it will ever bleach white in the north.

Lady Jane.—A third-row flamed bybloemen, but called a rose, the cup long, bottom creamy, and petals narrow.

Sarah (Lawrence).—A second-row rosy-coloured bybloemen, the cup long, and creamy on opening.

Blanche Violet.—A second-row bybloemen, cup rather long and tundish-shaped bottom, tinged under the stamens. Colour of Beinfait.

Elthron.—A fourth-row flamed bybloemen, good cup, bottom yellow, and is a splendid marker.

Perfecta (Goldham).—A third-row flamed bybloemen, the cup long, the base yellow, and is an excellent marker.

Andromeda is a second-row flamed rose. The cup long, the bottom greasy, and the colour apt to run. It sometimes comes feathered. It was raised by Mr. Walmsley, of Lancaster.

Arlotte is a second-row feathered rose, raised from seed by Mr. Butler, and sold when three years old to Mr. Dixon. The form of the flower is not good, the petals hang loosely, and do not fit close, which detracts much from its properties. The form is not extra, being tundish-shaped at the bottom, consequently it has no shoulder. The white is very good, as well as the bottom, the feathering a rich scarlet, but the petals are rather thin.

Aurora is a good-marking feathered bizarre, rather long in the cup, bottom pure, stamens tinged, petals narrow. Similar in colour to Platoff.

British Queen (Cornel) is a second-row flamed bybloemen, the form good, bottom pure, and the colours dark.

Bion (Dixon) is a second-row feathered rose, or it may, when old, be shown as a bybloemen. The cup is rather long, bottom pure, and the petals rather narrow. Raised from Comte de Vergennes.

Camillus (*Flambeau de la Duchess* is the proper name) is a flower much extolled in the midland counties, and highly recommended, but the cup is long, petals narrow, the bottom pure, and is an excellent marker, and similar in every respect to Prince de Asturias, better known under the name of Rose Unique, only not so broad in the petals, and not black stamens, but pure.

Corsair is a second-row feathered bizarre, good form, and pure base, the colour of the feathers dark, but the ground is extremely pale.

Catherine (Taylor).—This variety is better known in the south as *Queen of the North*. It was raised by a florist of the name of Clegg, who died, and his seedlings were dispersed. It was

brought into notice by Taylor, not the raiser, It is supposed that Hepworth, who called it Queen of the North, had it as a breeder from Clegg, previous to his death, but it did not break with him until some years after it was sold out as Catherine. It is universally allowed to be the same as Queen of the North, having been bought from Hepworth, and proved to be the same. It is a first-row feathered bybloemen, the cup rather long, the bottom extremely pure, the feathering dark. With many florists, it is considered equal to any feathered bybloemen in cultivation, but I differ from this opinion, although it is a beautiful and steady-marking variety.

Democrat (Dixon) is a second-row flamed bybloemen, the form good, the bottom pure, and is worthy of a place in the most select collections. Colour not quite so dark as Beinfait.

Dangerous (Dark) is a second-row flamed bizarre, raised in the south, by a florist of the name of Dark. The form is good as well as the bottom, the colour similar to Surpasse Catafalque.

Don Cossack is a second-row flamed bizarre, raised by the same individual who raised Dangerous. It is evidently a seedling from Polypheumus, although different in foliage. The form is good, but the bottom is not pure. It is an excellent marker.

[To be continued.]

FLORAL EXHIBITIONS.

TULIP SHOW.

At Mrs. Kitchen's, the Orange Tree Inn, Rutley, May 26.

Premier Prize (Silver Cup).—Charles X., Heroine, Lord Gough, San Joe, Magnus, and Unique, R. Nunnerley. 2nd Magnum Bonum, Charbonnier, Bienfait, Queen Charlotte, Heroine, and Aglaia, D. Potts.

Best Pan of Breeders.—Pilot, Miss Forest, and Lord Derby, R. Nunnerley.

Feathered Bizarres.

- 1 Charles X., D. Potts
- 2 Magnum Bonum, ditto
- 3 Paul Pry, J. Davenport
- 4 Charles X., R. Nunnerley
- 5 Surpasse Catafalque, ditto
- 6 Heath's Cossack, ditto
- 7 Perfecta, G. Chadwick
- 8 Lord Lilford, R. Nunnerley
- 9 Royal Gem, ditto
- 10 Rufus, G. Chadwick

Flamed Bizarres.

- 1 San Joe, R. Nunnerley
- 2 Polypheumus, G. Chadwick

- 3 Pilot, R. Nunnerley
- 4 Lord Milton, ditto
- 5 Flame de Guerre, M. Grimsditch
- 6 Lustre, J. Davenport
- 7 Caliph, R. Nunnerley
- 8 Charbonnier, D. Potts
- 9 Don Cossack, R. Nunnerley
- 10 Charles X., G. Chadwick

Feathered Bybloemens.

- 1 Bienfait, J. Davenport
- 2 Bienfait, D. Potts
- 3 Sir Henry Pottinger, ditto
- 4 Surpasant, R. Nunnerley
- 5 Delight, J. Davenport

- 6 Sportsman, D. Potts
- 7 Lord Denman, ditto
- 8 Edgar, R. Nunnerley
- 9 Baguet, M. Grimsditch
- 10 Lancashire Hero, D. Potts
Flamed Byblœmens.
- 1 Queen Charlotte, D. Potts
- 2 Flora, ditto
- 3 Siam, ditto
- 4 Surpassant, R. Nunnerley
- 5 Bienfait, D. Potts
- 6 La Belle Narene, M. Grimsditch
- 7 Lawrence's Friend, D. Potts
- 8 Lord Denman, R. Nunnerley
- 9 Queen Charlotte, J. Walsley
- 10 Pyramid d'Egypt, D. Potts
Feathered Roses.
- 1 Lady Crewe, R. Nunnerley
- 2 Heroine, D. Potts
- 3 Aglaia, R. Nunnerley
- 4 Lady Crewe, ditto
- 5 Dolittle, G. Chadwick
- 6 Comte de Vergennes, R. Nunnerley
- 7 Rosy Gem, ditto
- 8 Duc de Bronte, J. Davenport

- 9 Newcastle, D. Potts
- 10 Walworth, Mrs. Kitchen
Flamed Roses.
- 1 Aglaia, D. Potts
- 2 Unique, J. Davenport
- 3 Aglaia, R. Nunnerley
- 4 Triomphe Royale, ditto
- 5 Newcastle, G. Chadwick
- 6 Abbott's Amelia, R. Nunnerley
- 7 Fonceau Brillante, ditto
- 8 Vesta, D. Potts
- 9 Andromeda, ditto
- 10 Camillus, R. Nunnerley
Bizarre Breeders.
- 1 Pilot, R. Nunnerley
- 2 Earl Radnor, M. Grimsditch
- 3 Charbonnier, D. Potts
Byblœmen Breeders.
- 1 Miss Forest, R. Nunnerley
- 2 Maid of Orleans, J. Davenport
- 3 Britannia, M. Grimsditch
Rose Breeders.
- 1 Lord Derby, D. Potts
- 2 Lady Leicester, M. Grimsditch
- 3 Lady Suffolk, D. Potts

TULIP SHOW.

At Mr. James Beard's, the Holly Bush Inn, Bollington, May 27.

Premier Prize (Silver Cup).—Heroine and Unique, J. Hooley. 2nd. Magnum Bonum and Lustre, D. Potts.

Best Pan of Breeders.—King Richard (bizarre), General Picton (byblœmen), and Newcastle (rose), P. Hibbert.

Feathered Bizarres.

- 1 Magnum Bonum, D. Potts
- 2 Ditto, ditto
- 3 Charles X., G. Chadwick
- 4 Old Dutch Catafalque, J. Hooley
- 5 Surpasse Catafalque, G. Chadwick
- 6 Trafalgar, ditto
- 7 Duc de Savoy, D. Potts.
- 8 Perfecta, P. Hibbert

Flamed Bizarres.

- 1 San Joe, G. Chadwick
- 2 Polyphemus, J. Hooley
- 3 Charbonnier, ditto
- 4 Pilot, D. Potts
- 5 Lustre, ditto
- 6 Rufus, P. Hibbert
- 7 Lord Milton, D. Potts
- 8 Duke of Devonshire, J. Hooley

Feathered Byblœmens.

- 1 Bienfait, J. Hooley
- 2 La Belle Narene, ditto
- 3 Bienfait, ditto
- 4 Baguet, D. Potts
- 5 Sir Henry Pottinger, ditto
- 6 Washington, J. Hooley
- 7 Delight, G. Chadwick
- 8 Lady Flora Hastings, ditto

Flamed Byblœmens.

- 1 Bienfait, D. Potts
- 2 Siam, ditto
- 3 Bienfait, ditto

- 4 Bacchus, D. Potts
- 5 Sable Rex, T. Oldfield
- 6 Washington, P. Hibbert
- 7 Violet Wallers, S. Oldfield
- 8 Unknown, G. Chadwick

Feathered Roses.

- 1 Heroine, D. Potts
- 2 Hero of the Nile, G. Chadwick
- 3 Comte de Vergennes, P. Hibbert
- 4 Rosy Gem, J. Beard
- 5 Lady Crewe, D. Potts
- 6 Venter, T. Oldfield
- 7 Dolittle, G. Chadwick
- 8 Walworth, T. Oldfield

Flamed Roses.

- 1 Unique, D. Potts
- 2 Ditto, ditto
- 3 Aglaia, G. Chadwick
- 4 Vesta, ditto
- 5 Camillus, ditto
- 6 Thalestris, ditto
- 7 Triomphe Royale, D. Potts
- 8 Unknown, I. Beard

Breeders.

Old Dutch Catafalque (biz) Chadwick
General Picton (byb.), P. Hibbert
Kate Connor (rose), D. Potts

Sells.

White Flag, J. Hooley
Min d'Or, P. Hibbert

GERANIUM SHOW.

At Mr. J. Beard's, the Holly Bush Inn, Bollington, near Macclesfield, June 22.

Premier Prize (handsome Tea Service).—Repeal, Luna Refulgens, and Virgin Queen, D. Potts. 2nd (Tea Service). Sir R. Peel, Beauty of Montpelier, and Virgin Queen, W. Mayers. 3rd (Tea Service). Lord Stanley, Crusader, and Luna Refulgens, G. Mayers. 4th (Tea Kettle). Magnificent, Valquis, and Magog, W. Beard. 5th (Teapot). Ariadne, Valquis, and Virgin Queen, J. Leighton. 6th (Teapot). Luna Refulgens, Zamzumium, British Queen, Hibbert.

Purple.

- 1 Sir R. Peel, G. Mayers
- 2 Sikh, W. Mayers
- 3 Repeal, ditto
- 4 Ajax, J. Leighton
- 5 Sir R. Peel, D. Potts

Dark Rose.

- 1 Luna Refulgens, J. Leighton
- 2 Constante, G. Mayers
- 3 Enchantress, W. Mayers
- 4 Silk Mercer, J. Leighton
- 5 Gipsy Bride, G. Mayers

Light Rose.

- 1 Valquis, W. Mayers
- 2 Purity, W. Beard
- 3 Prince Arthur, W. Mayers
- 4 Chloe, J. Leighton
- 5 Beauty of Montpelier, ditto

Orange.

- 1 Duchess of Leinster, D. Potts
- 2 Magnificent, W. Beard
- 3 Niagara, ditto
- 4 Ruby, D. Potts
- 5 Crusader, W. Beard

Blush.

- 1 Magog, G. Mayers
- 2 Flora, D. Potts
- 3 Lady Villiers, G. Mayers
- 4 Zamzumium, W. Mayers
- 5 Marc Antony, G. Mayers

White.

- 1 British Queen, W. Mayers
- 2 Bishop of Manchester, J. Leighton
- 3 Lady Villiers, W. Beard
- 4 Virgin Queen, W. Mayers
- 5 Camilla, J. Leighton

CARNATION SHOW.

At Mr. J. Nicholson's, Hunslet, near Leeds, August 14.

Premier Prizes.—1. Uncle Tom, I. W. Bower. 2. Firebrand, I. Hebden. Pans.—1. Curzon, Milton, Beauty of Woodhouse, Firebrand, Uncle Tom, King James, and Princess Helena, I. W. Bower. 2. Curzon, Milton, Elizabeth, Firebrand, Lady Ely, Alfred, and King James, I. Hebden.

Scarlet Bizarres.

- 1 Admiral Curzon, I. W. Bower
- 2 Admiral Curzon, I. Boshell
- 3 Admiral Curzon, I. Hebden
- 4 Admiral Curzon, I. Fryer
- 5 Admiral Curzon, I. Boshell
- 6 Ditto, ditto

Pink Bizarres.

- 1 Lord Milton, I. W. Bower
- 2 Captain Franklin, G. Wood
- 3 Lord Milton, I. Hebden
- 4 Lord Milton, I. Fryer
- 5 Parker's Glory, I. Boshell
- 6 Lord Milton, G. Wood

Scarlet Flakes.

- 1 Firebrand, I. Hebden
- 2 Firebrand, I. W. Bower
- 3 Firebrand, G. Wood
- 4 Richard Cobden (Wood), ditto
- 5 Ditto, ditto
- 6 William IV., I. Hebden

Purple Flakes.

- 1 Charlotte, I. Boshell
- 2 Charlotte, I. Hebden
- 3 Earl Spencer, G. Wood
- 4 Ditto, ditto

- 5 Great Northern, G. Wood

- 6 Beauty of Woodhouse, I. Boshell

Rose Flakes.

- 1 Uncle Tom (Bramma), I. W. Bower
- 2 Lovely Ann, ditto
- 3 Uncle Tom, ditto
- 4 Lady Ely, G. Wood
- 5 Ditto, ditto
- 6 Uncle Tom, I. W. Bower

PICOTEES.

Scarlet.

- 1 Alfred, I. Hebden
- 2 Alfred, I. Boshell
- 3 Prince Arthur, G. Wood
- 4 Alfred, I. Hebden
- 5 Alfred, I. Boshell
- 6 Prince Arthur, ditto

Purple.

- 1 Marris's Prince of Wales, I. Fryer
- 2 Mrs Horner, I. Boshell
- 3 King James, I. Hebden
- 4 Seedling, G. Wood
- 5 Mrs Norman, I. W. Bower
- 6 Mrs. Horner, I. Boshell

ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

MR. LIGHTBODY'S CRITICISM ON MR. HARRISON'S
TULIP NOTES.MR. JAMES LIGHTBODY TO MR. WM. HARRISON, SECRETARY
TO THE FELTON UNION OF FLORISTS.

DEAR SIR,—In this month's number of the *Midland Florist*, I perceive you have attempted a reply to my strictures upon your descriptive tulip notes. At one time, I did not intend occupying the pages of the *Midland Florist* with a rejoinder, but as you really deserve to be chided as a wayward florist, I will do it very gently. I have frequently had the honour of showing our tulips, when in bloom, to ladies high in rank, who might be presumed to have a highly cultivated taste, yet I have always found, on pointing out what I considered to be our most perfect *specimens*, that no response was elicited. No; if there happened to be a full coloured bloom, or one half run, *that* was the bloom which was most admired;—with them, *colour* was the attraction. Even so it was with *artists*, with whom I have associated. A high-coloured bizarre, with an admixture of *burnt* sienna tints, seemed to them to be the only attractive flower; and even on the question of *perfection of form*, they preferred a long-cupped variety. I found this most strikingly illustrated on one occasion. An artist friend whom, being otherwise engaged, I was obliged to leave for a short time seated at the tulip bed, showed me, on my return, a sketch of what he considered the most graceful tulip in the whole collection. On looking at it, I expressed my surprise at his taste. It was a representation of a long-cupped flower, *Brulant Eclatant*, one of the *Triomphe Royale* class; and being only half expanded, it was consequently much longer in the cup than it would have been, if fully blown. At a later period, another friend, one of the most promising artists in Scotland, frequently spent hours amongst our tulips, and his favourite model was Stein's Napier, which, however beautiful in ground colour and marking, is decidedly long. Now here is a seeming anomaly. But no; as in the fine arts and in music, so is it in floriculture,—to form a perfect appreciation of beauty, the taste must be educated. I have witnessed, when spending a winter evening in a farm house, far away in the muirlands, the uproarious delight of the farm servants, when a *comic song* was sung; or when some ballad of thirty verses long was roared out with stentorian voice, the whole party joining in the chorus

with right good will. Yet transfer that party to a concert room, where a *Mario*, a *Sims Reeves*, or a *Jenny Lind*, gave utterance to the purest melody ever heard from the human voice, and they would tell you they did not understand it. So I feel in my floricultural experience. Flowers which, some years ago, I could look at and admire, I cannot now tolerate, because, having in my own mind formed an idea of *perfection of form*, that must be realized before I can be satisfied. Now, dear sir, your *twenty years'* experience as a tulip grower avails not, without having formed a proper taste for the beautiful. As witnesses against your taste, amongst the *gems* described by you, are *Hero of the Nile*, *Strong's High Admiral*, and *Emperor of Scarlets*, a very creamy flower, and apparently worthless.

My criticisms on your notes are wholly from memory, but I feel they are correct, and will not now go over them again. As regards your *minuteness* of description, with which I so justly found fault, I must *impress* this point upon you, "*Dark's Don Cossack*, instead of being 'green in bottom, and, when heavy, quite foul,' is a grandly feathered and flamed bizarre, on a rich yellow ground." Quite so, Mr. Harrison, *but you do not say that it is clean in the bottom*. Turn to page 32 of this month's *Midland Florist*, and you will notice Slater says of this variety, *the form is good, but the bottom is not pure*. Now, although I do not think that Slater can be considered an authority, as he is not a judge of tulips, yet he has noticed that Don Cossack is *foul*. Regarding *Marcellus*, you quote the late Mr. Davidson. He may have seen this variety free from the *grizzlyness* which I saw, but having always seen it in that state, it would have been wrong for me not to have noticed it; and further, Mr. Davidson's descriptions were frequently *vague*. In describing a variety, his favourite terms were, *a trifle of flame*, and *a little feather*. The *Lightbody* whom you *italicise* as officiating as judge at the Horns Tavern, was my father. Now all I can say is, that if he *sinned* in such good company as Messrs. Goldham, Lawrence, and Willmer, you cannot expect me to bear the burthen.

The superlative *Jenny Lind* is a seedling of *Haward's*, as I before stated, and neither Mr. Alexander nor myself, who have broken this flower from the breeder, have the smallest right or title to usurp Mr. Haward's name. I lately saw some *Chellastons* broken from the *breeders*, and the person who had broken them, tacked *his name* to them. I told him they were Chellastons: he admitted it, but said as he had broken them, he should honour his name. No, no, I said, If Mr. Gibbons raised these flowers, as you admit, Gibbons's they must remain, and not make confusion worse confounded.

I am not ambitious to be the *'Disraeli* or *Bright* of floriculture, yet, having formed my own earnest opinion of what con-

stitutes *perfection of form in the tulip*, I have openly avowed that opinion. You quote Mr. Glenny, but it is well known his opinion is worthless. No one ever yet could get Mr. Glenny to say whether the quarter or half of a hollow globe was right. He always shuffled this point. And can you tell me why it is that Mr. Glenny never officiates as judge at the new annual royal national tulip show? or at the amateur show, held at the Horns? or at any of the leading shows? Perhaps you will oblige the readers of the *Midland Florist*, by telling them.

I never knew before that my friend, Dr. Hardy had been elevated to the summit of *floral reputation*. I always understood that the worthy doctor merely grew tulips. If any man has attained the *summit*, it is Mr. Charles Turner; and we must, after him, all earnestly strive to be disciples at least. I had purposed entering more fully into the discussion of *perfection of form*, but having published in the *Florist*, the diagram embodying my standard, which you evidently have not seen, I will now ask you to get Glenny's, Dr. Hardy's, or your own design drawn, and request Mr. Turner to figure them. Before mine appeared in the *Florist*, it was submitted to, and met the approval of, the first tulip growers in Britain, among whom were Dr. Horner, Messrs. Goldham (senior and junior), Headly, Lawrence, Willmer, and Mr. Groom found little fault with it.

And now, dear sir, allow me (if we are all well during the approaching tulip bloom) to invite you in the most cordial manner to be my guest for a day or two, and I assure you, I shall truly have much pleasure in again discussing our *tulip notes*.

P.S. In a descriptive article on tulips, by Slater, under his old tattered banner of "Be just, and fear not," he mentions a tulip as *Lightbody's Emperor Nicholas*, which flower exists only in his fertile imagination. There is a worthless Dutch variety, named Emperor Nicholas, which, like its prototype, cannot be a favourite with the admirers of the tulip.

Falkirk, January 8th, 1855.

CULTURE OF THE CAMELLIA.

I PROMISED to give you a few notes on the cultivation of this beautiful ornament of our conservatories, but really when I come to think the matter over, the routine is so simple, your correspondents will find a few brief memorandums, added to their own observations and attention, amply sufficient for their success.

At this time of the year, the plants must not be kept in too warm a situation; they will flower longer and better in a moderately-heated greenhouse or conservatory, than in a higher temperature. Care must be taken that they do not experience any check, or get dry at the roots, or some fine morning, the hopes of the season will vanish, on finding all the buds dropped off. I will suppose that every care has been taken, that the bloom has been satisfactory, and the growth of the plant progressing favourably. Water must be rather liberally supplied, and, if possible, a rather higher temperature kept up, unless they can be removed to a house of the requisite heat. I always syringe mine with tepid water, at this time, and nothing can look more beautiful and healthy than my plants. Some people turn their plants out of doors when they have perfected their growth, and the flower buds are apparent. I do not; but I obtain some rotten turf, which has been prepared for the purpose. It is loamy, for it must be borne in mind that the camellia loves a stout soil. Well then, I take two barrowsful of this, and add one of good peat soil (NOT BOG). This makes it work well, and keeps it free and open, an indispensable requisite, as no plant suffers more than this from stagnation about the roots. I then, when the young shoots harden and turn olive brown, repot them in the soil just mentioned. Of course I drain the pots well. I don't take a handful of potsherds, and chuck them into the pot, previous to putting in the soil; but I take a large concave piece, and place it on another, so that the hole at the bottom of the pot may be covered as with a dome. I then place other pieces carefully round, putting some rough pieces of rotten turf on the top. It is next to impossible that the soil should be soddened, if this precaution is taken. When potting, I carefully examine the balls, as the roots always mat more or less, and release or loosen those which can be done with safety. After potting, I water, to settle the soil, and place in a greenhouse,

where they can have an abundant circulation of air, and at the same time be shaded from the extreme rays of the sun, which otherwise are apt to brown the foliage. All that they will now require, except shading and air, will be a moderate supply of water, till the season comes round when the buds begin to swell. Then weak liquid manure may be given occasionally, and a more abundant supply of water.

As for varieties, the old double white is a general favourite, very prolific in flowers, symmetrical, and delicate. Then there is *Fimbriata*, in the same style, except that the petals are beautifully serrated, as if cut with a pair of scissors. *Imbricata* is a splendid deep rose, and, as its name indicates, very regular and attractive in form. Gray's *Invincible* and Presse's *Eclipse* are delicately striped varieties. *Tricolor* is singular, but will not now do, when better sorts are coming in fast. *Drysdali* is a good formed flower, delicate rose colour, striped with white. *General Bem* is a delightful flower, rather deeper in the centre than the circumference, which is rich rose. The petals are beautifully formed, and arranged spirally. *Alba eximea*, is another splendid white flower, very large, and beautifully formed. *Andre Doria*, brilliant red, striped with white, large, and imbricated. These are some of the best I have had. I might swell the list, but as I am only writing for those who have room for a small collection, if they procure the sorts I have named, I am sure they will be delighted with them.

W. M.



WEeping TREES.

[Continued from page 17.]

IN continuance of our remarks on this class of plants, we will mention the various ashes. The common is a well-known variety, and is certainly one of the best

for making arbours, at the same time being very graceful and ornamental. We have often been amused by people seriously inquiring whether the grafts were not put in upside down, to arrive at its beautiful pendulous habit. The Chinese Weeping Ash is a very graceful plant, with much thinner shoots and smaller foliage than the preceding. It is hardly so decidedly pendulous, as some of the branches will occasionally take an upward direction. The Gold-barked Weeping Ash is another variety, but though pendulous, it does not, with us, take that decided character which belongs to those previously named.


There are several weeping cherries. One has a peculiarly bushy habit, retaining its foliage a long time in the autumn, and producing fruit in abundance, which is, however, small and acid. The Broad-leaved Weeping Cherry we cannot say much about, it having nothing particular to recommend it.

The weeping elms are good, particularly a new one, with very large rather glossy foliage. This is certainly a decided acquisition, drooping well. The older variety is a handsome tree, with large leaves, but it has a tendency to throw out its branches horizontally, which, however, renders it a very interesting object.

Another highly ornamental tree is the Weeping Larch. The first we ever saw or heard of, was raised by Mr. Goodall, of Hereford, and we have seen many beautiful trees raised from the original, growing in his nursery. The larch naturally, as most of our readers know, is extremely erect and spiral; this, however, has a decided tendency the other way, and is one of the best weeping trees grown. The Weeping Poplar is a good thing. Belonging to the aspen section, the branches are very slender, and it has a remarkably graceful habit. The Weeping *Pyrus aria* is also very good, and should be grown where such trees are admired (and where are they not?). The foliage is white beneath, and it produces flowers and fruit,

somewhat like the mountain ash. *Pyrus depressa* and *P. florabunda* both belong to the same family, white flowers and red berries, the foliage of the former assuming a beautiful orange crimson tint in the autumn, which renders it peculiarly handsome. The Weeping Laburnum, when grafted on good stocks, is a welcome addition to this class of plants; and several *Cytisus*, such as *C. elongata purpurea pendula*, *supina*, &c., all help to swell the number of beautiful lawn trees. Then there is the weeping oak, walnut, and lime; in fact, there is hardly a tribe of plants which has not one or more pendulous trees amongst it. Evergreens, however, are rather an exception to the rule. Some of the cypresses are very graceful, so are the junipers, whilst amongst the yews there is the one called *Dovastonii*, and we have a seedling, raised by a gentleman, near Wolverhampton, which is as prostrate as the *Juniperus tamariscifolia*, and has not yet shown a tendency to any other character, but remains without giving any upright shoots. We anticipate that this, when grafted on a tall straight stem, will make one of the most ornamental trees in cultivation.

NEW, RARE, OR GOOD FRUITS, FLOWERS, PLANTS, TREES, AND VEGETABLES.



WE are always glad to bring these matters before our readers, forming, as we believe they do, some of the most interesting pages in our little work.

In greenhouse plants then, we will first notice some fuchsias, novel in character, and certainly the forerunners of a new class, in this graceful and favourite tribe of plants. We allude to those which

have been lately raised with white corollas. The first two are now being sold out by Messrs. Lucombe, Pince, and Co. One is called the *Double Snowdrop-corolla'd Fuchsia*, the centre being composed of a mass of pure white double petals, bearing a great similarity to the welcome harbinger of spring from whence its name is derived. The sepals, or exterior parts of each flower, are deep crimson. Thus giving a brilliant and beautiful contrast, and forming one of the most novel and picturesque plants imaginable for exhibition or decorative purposes. The other is dedicated to and named after *Florence Nightingale*, the lady who has so nobly devoted herself to the cause of humanity, in going to Turkey, to aid and solace our suffering sick and wounded soldiers from the Crimea. This is not a double flower, but the corolla is of the greatest purity, the sepals scarlet, and reflexing most gracefully. Altogether, these are two of the greatest novelties of the day. Another is *Fuchsia Dominiana*, raised in the nursery of Messrs. Veitch & Son, Exeter, a splendid scarlet autumnal variety, with large flowers and fine foliage.

ESTERHAZYA SPLENDIDA, as its name implies, is a most attractive greenhouse plant. It throws up spikes of brilliant orange flowers, in the style of some of our best pentstemons. It is easy of cultivation, and will doubtless become a great favourite.

Amongst new rhododendrons, the following should be inquired for by those who devote attention to this beautiful tribe. *R. Dr. Miquel*, a most delicate white, deeply margined with rich rose colour. *R. Madame Aglae Adanson*, white ground, margined with crimson, the upper petal most richly spotted.

CAMELLIA MEXICANA NOVA.—The most perfect ranunculus shape, bright vermillion, with white stripe down the centre of each petal. A most beautiful variety.

CAMELLIA ARCHDUCHESS MARIE is another decided acquisition. It is also a splendid crimson, with white stripe, and of the most perfect imbrication. In fact, it is one of the most lovely things we have seen.

VEGETABLES.

Amongst new peas, *Torwood Lee* is one of the best lately introduced to this part of the country; and coming, as it does, from Scotland, we should take it to be a right sort to try, because we prefer fruits, vegetables, &c. which come from a more unpropitious climate than our own. Its height is four feet, with large pods, produced in great profusion. Hairs, who introduced to notice the Mammoth Marrow, which is certainly one of the very best peas grown, has a new sort, called *Defiance Marrow*, the peas, from producing their stems very stout and bushy, requiring to be planted four inches apart. It has almost every good quality that a pea should have.

A CAPITAL SUBSTITUTE FOR THE POTATO.—The *Dioscorea batatas*, or new Chinese potato, is evidently destined to become a staple article of food. Growing to a large size, being extremely mealy, very productive, and of fine flavour, it will, no doubt, be of immense service. The continental nurserymen think very highly of it, and we shall wait anxiously till our tubers get sufficiently large that we may test their quality, when we hope to be enabled to form a tolerably correct opinion as to its worth in a horticultural point of view.

We saw, the other day, in the possession of Mr. Calkwell, gardener to Mr. John Hardy, Nottingham, some beautiful specimens of variegated kale. It was very much curled, and exhibited all the shades of purple, crimson, dark and light green, attractively

variegated with white. We see in *Rendle's Price Current*, that Mr. R. has bought the stock of seed of what is supposed to be an improved variety of this handsome borecole. Mr. Melville says of it, "Some of the heads are transparent white, others crimson, red, green and white, and red and white. By gas or candle light, it looks beautiful, and quite transparent, and for garnishing dishes on the table, stands quite pre-eminent. It also looks well among shrubs, for decorative purposes. I have frequently seen the small leaves used as a garland for the hair, or head-dress."

MELVILLE'S NEW INTERMEDIATE HYBRID CABBAGE also appears to us to be a valuable acquisition. We should have liked a shorter name, though Mr. Melville gives us his reasons for the designation. He says, "I have named the new hybrid cabbage 'intermediate,' on account of its coming in between the Savoy Cabbage and the Early Spring Cabbage. It is, without exception, the hardiest variety in cultivation, neither frost nor rain will affect it, and it will stand uninjured through the most severe winters. It is a hybrid between the Cabbage Green (*Query*, Savoy), crossed with the Early Dwarf Cabbage, or rather M'Ewen's Dwarf. If it is sown on the 20th of April, it will come in after Savoys are over. It does not burst the heart, like the Savoy, but will keep perfect and good in the head till the beginning of May"

NEW CUCUMBERS.—Gardeners and amateurs are always glad to get hold of the best, and two with high-sounding military names are making their debut this season. We give their character in Mr. Tiley's own words. *General Canrobert Cucumber*, a most superb variety for winter cultivation, for which it is best adapted, being a hybrid from Lord Kenyon's Favourite and Phenomenon. It has a great advantage over the former in length, growing to about eighteen inches in the same time that that variety

grows twelve. It is equally as hardy and productive, of a dark green appearance, black spine, and a free setter. It fruits freely during the whole of the winter, and always grows a very even size from stem to point. It will swell off two or three fruits at a time on a plant, during the depth of winter, and will carry them out well, which it does with less heat than any other. This has been proved when several varieties have been grown together, this having the coldest part of the house. The other variety is named *Sir Colin Campbell*.

LYNCH'S STAR OF THE WEST CUCUMBER appears to have many good qualities. It bears two fruit at each joint, the fruit is quite round and perfectly smooth, without any rib or roughness whatever; very short in the neck, and without doubt a very superior variety. The spines are white. Messrs. Rendle have purchased the stock of it. We give Mr. Lynch's mode of treating this fine cucumber, and shall be glad if it brings it into the notice it deserves. "In treating my cucumbers, I raise them in a hotbed, they are transplanted into boxes, three feet long, twenty inches deep, and as many wide, filled with three parts of well rotted dung and loam, in equal proportions, and then placed on the back wall, in a fruiting pinery, tied to uprights. At the proper heights, they are stopped, and trained to wires, eighteen inches from the glass, running over the passage. As soon as the laterals begin to show fruit, which will occur at every joint, they should be stopped at the following one. The boxes should be filled with the proper compost, leaving room for a thin layer of moss, which I find excellent for preserving the roots from the action of the sun, in hot weather. Up to this period, they should have clear water, made lukewarm, and afterwards an abundant supply of diluted sheep dung, syringing twice a day, morning and evening, in bright weather. It is excellent for early and late forcing, of beautiful form, and when well grown,

attains the length of twenty-seven inches, retaining its flower and bloom in fine condition. The quality I think superior to any other variety in cultivation."

EXTRACTS, HINTS, AND RECOLLECTIONS.

A DESCRIPTIVE CATALOGUE OF TULIPS.

BY MR. JOHN SLATER, FLORIST, CHEETHAM HILL, NEAR
MANCHESTER.

[Continued from page 32.]

Duke of Sussex is a second-row flamed bizarre, not extra in form, petals narrow at the top, and tinged under the stamens.

Edith Plantagenet.—A third-row flamed bybloemen, of good form; the base of the cup yellow, which will never bleach out in the northern counties, and it is doubtful whether it will in the south.

Edgar.—A feathered bybloemen, raised by a florist named Naylor, residing at Denton. The cup of this variety is long, the bottom cloudy, tinged stamens, petals narrow, and the colour of the feathering similar to Bienfait.

Fairy Queen (Bromley).—A first-rate feathered bybloemen, cup rather long, bottom pure, and the feathering dark in colour.

General Gough (Hooker).—The same as Edith Plantagenet.

Gold Cup.—A second-row feathered bizarre, called Slater's in the south, though not raised, but introduced by him. It is, I believe, a seedling, originated by the same individual who raised Catherine, better known as the Queen of the North. The cup is good, the bottom pure, and the feathering nearly black.

Jupiter (Naylor).—A flamed rose, the cup rather long, the bottom cloudy, and the stamens sometimes tinged. Had this variety possessed purity, it would have ranked very high.

Incomparable Amazon.—Supposed to be Lewold.

La Bien Aimee.—Alexander Magnus.

Lady Granville.—A second-row feathered bybloemen; the form good, notwithstanding the petals are narrow; the bottom creamy, and the colour of the feather dark.

Lord Melbourne (Naylor).—A second-row flamed bizarre, form not good, base pure, and the colour reddish.

Rebecca (Milner).—A third-row feathered byblœmen, form good, bottom pure, the ground very extra, and the colour of the feathering approaching to black. The petals of this variety appear rather thin, but that is probably owing to the purity of the white.

Morning Star (Gresswood).—A flamed bizarre, cup good, bottom pure, the colour of the feathering like Pilot, and marks similar to Emperor of Austria.

Marie Antoinette.—A second-row feathered byblœmen, good cup, bottom bad.

Monarch.—A third-row feathered bizarre, supposed to be same as Bacchus bizarre. The cup is rather long, the petals narrow, the bottom pure, and slightly tinged on the top of the stamens.

Naomi.—A second-row flamed rose, form good, base pure, flower large, colour similar to Lord Hill, colour of the beam not very strong. A first-rate variety. A seedling raised in Belgium, called Slater's.

Passe Brulant Eclatant.—A third-row flamed rose, cup good and bottom pure. A first rate variety.

Pyramide d'Egypt.—A fourth-row byblœmen, of good form and pure bottom. Sometimes it comes feathered, and at others feathered and flamed. A very desirable variety, and worthy a place, although cheap, in the most select collection.

Surpasse Pompe Funebre is Catafalque Superieure, better known in some parts as Rising Sun.

Queen Adelaide.—A second-row flamed byblœmen, cup long, stamens black, bottom not pure, petals narrow. Marks in the style of Superb en Noir.

Rose Beaute.—The same as *Pyramide d'Egypt*.

Roi de Borneo.—A rosy-coloured feathered byblœmen, cup short, bottom greasy and waxy, petals narrow.

Rose Magnificent (Haywood).—A fourth-row feathered rose, sometimes flamed. Flower large, bottom creamy, and requires time to bleach out, cup long, and petals narrow. This variety, at one period, was highly esteemed in the south, and considered one of the best roses in cultivation. From this I must differ, although it took the premier prize at the national meeting, at Nottingham, and deservedly so, but as it is a very sporting variety, it will never rank as first-rate, more especially where form and purity are appreciated.

Sable Queen (Bromley).—A feathered as well as a feathered and flamed byblœmen. The cup long, the bottom pure, the petals rather narrow, and the colour dark.

Sans Egal, alias Rose Juliana.—A second-row flamed rose, cup rather long, bottom pure, and colour rich. It is very unsteady, but when caught, is a good marking stage flower.

Sancta Sophia.—A third-row feathered byblœmen, raised by Mr. Butler, but purchased at the same time as Arlette, by

Mr. Dixon, who first bloomed it. The cup is rather long, the bottom pure, the ground colour extremely good and pure, and the feathering dark, almost black. It is very steady, and worthy a place in any collection. **Washington** has been sold as this variety, but is not to be compared to it in the slightest degree. I saw a bloom of **Washington** labelled as **Sancta Sophia**, at the national tulip show, at the Regent's Park, London.

Village Queen.—A feathered rose, raised in the neighbourhood of Leigh, Lancashire. The cup is long, the bottom impure, and the petals narrow. The only good quality it possesses is its marking.

Violet Amiable (Haigh).—A second-row feathered bybloemen, raised at Ashton-under-Lyne, near Manchester. The cup is long, the petals rather narrow, and the bottom pure, although it opens creamy. The marking is of a plated character, instead of those fine pencillings which add so much to the beauty of a feathered flower, and it is very apt to come bald at the top of the petals. The colour similar to **Bienfait**.

Star (Goldham).—A flamed bybloemen, long cup, very creamy, and not likely to bleach out.

Lord Byron (Goldham).—A flamed bybloemen, cup good, bottom pure, and the colour dark.

Mount Hecla (Goldham).—A flamed bizarre, cup rather long, bottom pure, a fiery reddish colour.

Queen (Goldham).—A rose. When exhibited, neither a feather nor flame, but evidently appears to be inclined to feather only. The cup rather long, petals narrow, and a very large portion of breeder in every petal.

Fanny Kemble (Clarke).—This variety has been repeatedly extolled as the finest bybloemen ever raised, and at the death of Mr. Clarke, of Croydon, was sold for £100, to Mr. Davey, of Chelsea. The stock, at Mr. Davey's decease, consisted of one blooming root and two offsets, and was sold to Mr. Goldham for £72 10s. I cannot, after minutely examining it, give it such a character. Although it is short in the cup, and pure, its petals are too narrow ever to rank high. When shown last year, it was flamed, and not at all likely to captivate or attract the attention of a lover of tulips. Mr. Goldham possesses seedlings that I should prefer to **Fanny Kemble**.

Napoleon (Goldham).—A feathered bybloemen, cup good and bottom pure. An exceedingly promising variety.

Sir Robert Peel (Goldham).—A feathered bybloemen, cup good, bottom pure, and, in my opinion, very superior to the best **Fanny Kemble** ever seen.

Fanny Elsler.—A flamed rose, similar in colour to **Triomphe Royale**, but the colours much brighter. The cup is long, bottom pure, and petals narrow.

- Charles Kemble* (Goldham).—A feathered byblöemen, cup rather long, bottom pure, colour dark. A very promising variety.
- Marquis of Anglesey* (Goldham).—A flamed byblöemen, base not pure, opens very yellow.
- Duchess of Sutherland*.—A flamed byblöemen, good cup and pure bottom. A very fine variety.
- Lord John Russell* (Franklin).—A flamed byblöemen, short cup, base not pure, petals narrow.
- Glory* (Goldham).—A bizarre, long cup, bottom pure, petals narrow, no marker, and nearly all breeder.
- Fortunatus* (Goldham).—A feathered bizarre, good cup, bottom pure, first-rate.
- Emma* (Goldham).—A flamed byblöemen, cup long, bottom pure, promising.
- John Kemble* (Goldham).—A byblöemen, which appears likely to be a feathered variety, as it does not show the slightest disposition to beam. Cup rather long, bottom pure.
- Picturata* (Goldham).—This is a splendid-marking rose, of good form, but unfortunately it is tinged under and on the top of the stamens.
- Marc Antony* (Goldnam).—A flamed byblöemen, the cup rather long, the bottom pure, a good marker, and, no doubt, will prove a useful flower.
- Juliet* (Goldham).—A flamed rose, the cup good, and the bottom pure. A very promising variety.
- Gem* (Goldham).—A rose, the cup good, the bottom greasy, and evidently, from its character, will be a feathered variety.
- Napier* (Stein).—A feathered bizarre, the cup long, bottom pure, colours striking and bright, and the feathering very delicate.
- Mrs. Norman* (Norman).—A feathered byblöemen, the cup good and the bottom pure. One of the finest byblöemens in cultivation. The stock was purchased by Dr. Bushell and another gentleman, for a considerable sum.
- King* (Delaforce).—A flamed bizarre, the cup rather long, the bottom pure, and had the outside ground colour been much deeper, it would have found many admirers for its excellent marking properties; but unfortunately the ground colour is nearly white, or, to speak more correctly, a slight improvement upon Carlo Dolci.
- Nora Creina*.—A flamed byblöemen, good cup, bottom creamy at opening, and the colour dark. It is likely to prove a great acquisition to the flamed byblöemen class.
- Gem* (Abbott).—A feathered byblöemen, cup rather long, but good, petals broad, bottom pure, colour of the feathering not dark.
- Charles Brown, alias Brown's Polyphemus*.—This variety has been grown for some years as Brown's Polyphemus, but last season, it was agreed for the future to call it Charles Brown.

This flamed bizarre (I write from notes made upon the spot) much disappointed me. I expected to see a variety possessing every good property, but unfortunately, after saying the cup is short, all the rest is far from being anything approaching perfection. The base of the flower is like Platoff, a yellow, much deeper than the ground colour, inside; the petals are narrow, and when expanded, instead of retaining something of a form, resemble a star; the colours are dark; it also has the fault of throwing its petals back, and becomes to all appearance a saucer. A good tulip, or what we ought to consider as such, should retain its original form until its petals fall.

SELECT PLANTS FOR BEDDING OUT IN FLOWER GARDENS.

A WELL-ARRANGED flower garden constitutes the *multum in parvo* of floriculture, the principal object being to produce the highest ornamental effect in the most limited space. The perfect cultivation of plants consists in obtaining the greatest amount of flowers from the greatest extent of growth of which the plants are capable, and which can only be obtained under the most favourable conditions, previous to the formation of flower buds, or by removing the latter, when prematurely formed.

A premature disposition to form flower buds arises from either of, or a combination of, the following causes:--

1st. From an exhausted and attenuated state of growth in those plants from which they are multiplied.

2nd. From an excessive but necessary stimulus of growth given to all young plants, by exposing them to a higher temperature than is required for their natural conditions of growth.

3rd. From the opposite extremes of drought and moisture to which young plants are necessarily subject, by being retained in small pots.

4th. From a neglect of checking attenuated growth at stated periods, equal to their rapid formation of flower buds.

5th. From the absence of a greater stimulus to robust growth, an efficient method of potting, and a modified exposure to light, air, &c., and the restriction of their growth.

Free growth, adaptation to common soils, profusion and continuance of bloom, ready increase, and sufficient hardihood to withstand cold, by the protection of a pit, or frame, with external covering, are the most desirable qualities in plants for ornamental effect in flower beds. Amongst those which possess peculiar interest, in connection with the varieties of verbenas, petunias, &c., perhaps there are none which answer more fully to the features described than *Lobelia erinus*, and its varieties, of which *L. erinus grandiflora* may be regarded as the most valuable. It is distinguished from others by its more compact, perennial, and branching habit, and thickly set flowers, of a rich ultra-marine blue. Its prolific and decumbent growth render it superior to all others for cultivation in large masses, and it is admirably adapted for a summer edging to parterres or borders, when the extremities of its shoots are uniformly shortened at stated periods, in order to induce a close growth. It is also useful for table specimens, in pots or sculptured vases, or for square slate boxes, to be placed on the ascending steps to drawing room entrances. For marginal effect to sloping banks, or along the base of ornamental rockwork, it may also be planted with effect. It forms a succession of autumn bloom after the beautiful *Mesembryanthemum tricolor*, and *Portulaca splendens*, and looks well in front of borders of herbaceous perennials.

The following practical illustration will show the result of obtaining a prolonged accumulating vigour of growth, previous to the season of bloom.

In the spring of 1854, four vigorous young plants, in three-and-a-half-inch pots, from cuttings of the same year (forming premature flower buds at the time), were removed from a cold frame, and shifted to pots of six inches diameter, preparatory to their

next final potting. The proportions and kinds of soils used were, one-half friable, sandy, yellow loam, with three remaining parts of partially dried highly fermented manure, in a pulverized state, and one part of sandy heath mould, adding about one-sixth of white sand to the whole. A heavy stratum of partially dried coarse manure, of similar quality, selected immediately from a large heap, was placed as subdrainage, over the potsherds. The plants were placed upon the front platform of a forcing house (west aspect), with exposure to bright light, in a temperature varying from seventy degrees by day to fifty-five degrees by night. The first removal of the premature flower buds was made a fortnight after the plants had been potted, by uniformly cutting off the extremities of the principal shoots, or stems, three or four joints shorter, and the smaller ones in proportion to their vigour. As the plants advanced in growth, a uniform position of the stem was secured by placing small temporary stakes against the curve of each, without tying. The plants remained in this position until the second week in June, at which period they were shifted to pots of nine, twelve, and thirteen inches diameter, using similar soil as before, but adding a heavier intermediate stratum of dry coarse manure, firmly pressed; and promiscuous flakes of the same material was intermixed, or progressively added with the compost, in potting. After this operation, the plants remained a week in the forcing-house, and from thence were removed to a cold frame (south aspect), appropriated to similar plants, where a temperature was maintained, when practicable, of sixty-five degrees by day and fifty-five by night.

Growth was induced during the day by tilting the lights sideways a few inches, with a slight shade from excessive sunlight, until one or two o'clock; on the removal of which, an increase of air was given until three. They were then fully exposed, by drawing off the lights, for half an hour, to promote a free

evaporation; after which, the plants were watered, and remained exposed until the foliage was partially dried, and in this state the frames were closed. For the morning treatment, air was given early, by moving the lights downward from the back nine to twelve inches, for an hour, after which the plants were again fully exposed for the same period, and at eight o'clock, they were reclosed for one or two hours, according to the brightness of the atmosphere. The full exposure of the plants, and admission of air, were regulated by the variations of the external temperature.

During the progressive growth of the plants, from the first week in May until the second week in July, the extremities of the shoots were uniformly cut shorter, at four stated periods. By thus retarding the formation of flower buds until a definite period, a dense and accumulated vigour of growth was obtained in each plant, varying from twelve to eighteen inches in diameter, without any apparent tendency to bloom. From the above period in July, the plants were gradually exposed, and finally placed upon an east border, and each pot was placed within a pan, to admit an occasional supply of water to the roots. In this position, throughout August, September, and October, they excited general admiration, by their brilliant effect, being thickly studded with thousands of lovely blue blossoms, so numerous that, to a stranger, would imply a very limited duration, but were kept up in a repeated succession for the above period. The four specimens were of different sizes; of the two largest, when in mature growth, one was a foot and a half, and the other two feet in diameter, and they were sold at five and seven shillings each! The finest of these plants formed one of a collection chosen to ornament her Majesty's dining table, at Windsor Castle.

Gardeners' Chronicle.

THE NEW DAHLIAS OF 1854.

[From the *Florist*.]

THE brief editorial comments appended to my last paper remind me that a word or two of explanation is due to my readers, in order that we may fully comprehend the position we occupy in relation to each other. Let me frankly acknowledge then, once for all, that in the observations I have made, and the opinions I have expressed respecting the growing and the showing of the dahlia, I wish to disclaim, *in toto*, the assumption of such an acquaintance with the subject as would justify me, even were I so disposed, in constituting myself an *authority* on the question. In truth, my sphere of observation is too limited, and my organ of self-esteem not sufficiently developed, for any such assumption on my part. Why then, it may be asked, do I venture to obtrude myself before the public? Simply this: it is only by the free interchange of opinions, that we arrive, by slow degrees, at the truth. By this means crudities are dispelled, prejudices removed, doubts solved, and erroneous impressions eradicated. And it is well to remember that we have, usually, as much to *unlearn* as to *learn*, before we can render ourselves masters of our subject, be it whatever it may. Having previously expressed an opinion that the *Florist* is a legitimate medium for such intercommunication, I scruple not to avail myself of the facilities offered by its pages. I may affirm, moreover, in all sincerity, that whatever I have written has been penned with the ultimate hope of *obtaining*, rather than of *imparting* information.

These observations will apply with redoubled force in connection with that part of my subject I am now approaching, viz., a consideration of the new dahlias of 1854. In this category, I find before me a list of some two dozen varieties, more than half of which I have grown, and the remainder I have seen, more or less, on some few occasions. The remarks I have to offer concerning them are the result of my own

limited experience *only*. If they possess any value, it is solely because (within the bounds of that experience) they are strictly honest and impartial.

To proceed: the dahlias sent out in May last, have not, upon the whole, been exhibited in so good a state as when shown as seedlings, in 1853. Nor need this be a matter of surprise, since a like result will almost always occur, in a greater or less degree. The reason is obvious. When a seedling is to be put upon its trial it enjoys peculiar advantages. Being then, for the most part, in the hands of its raiser, it experiences, so to speak, a kind of parental care and solicitude: from the earliest period of its existence to the time it is "brought up for judgment," it is watched and tended with the utmost anxiety; every appliance of art and nature is summoned to its aid; and when, at length, it is produced before the world, it follows, as a matter of course, that it comes forth in the highest state of perfection to which it is capable of being raised. Now let us note the career of such a production. Week after week, it is exhibited, three or six blooms, as the case may be, and always in excellent condition. Such a gem cannot escape observation. Every grower looks upon it as a great acquisition, sees, in imagination, its splendid appearance in his stands for the ensuing year, and orders it accordingly. The stock, it may be, is limited, while the plants required are very numerous. And what, now, is the fate of this pet, this spoiled child, which has been reared in the lap of luxury? Alas! the usual fate of pets awaits it, and it becomes the victim of over-popularity. Poor John Barleycorn himself was never subjected to more barbarous usage. But the *demand* is great, and the *supply* must be made to keep pace with it, be it ever so enormous. Our unfortunate subject is therefore *forced* and *driven* to, and almost beyond, its utmost powers of endurance; for every bud it produces must, if possible, be converted into a distinct, independent being, having a perfect organisation of its own, and complete in all

its parts. Nor is this all. In due time, a plant thus artificially reared comes into the possession of the grower, who, instead of nursing it tenderly, is too often anxious to "make the most of it" in another sense; and who, under the erroneous impression that he will have a better chance of blooms from two or three plants than from one, still further mutilates and multiplies it, unthinking that he is deteriorating the *quality* in the exact ratio that he increases the *quantity* of his new acquisition. What marvel, then, that under such unnatural treatment, the constitution of the variety should have become seriously impaired? It may retain indeed the principles of *simple vitality*: it may grow freely, and be, apparently, healthy and vigorous, and yet its *powers of reproduction* may have suffered to such an extent as to render it incapable of yielding perfect blooms, until time and less severe discipline shall have restored it to its pristine state; and a year, or even more, may elapse before this restoration is complete. Here, then, is a sufficient reason, and one of almost universal applicability, why dahlias in the first year of their cultivation, so often disappoint the hopes of their possessors. Moreover, the new varieties of last year have had to contend against one of the most trying seasons ever known. Let it not be supposed, therefore, that the broad assertion with which this paragraph commences is to be constructed into a sweeping condemnation of the dahlias let out last spring. On the contrary, I am disposed to augur well of the majority of them; I believe they will all be better another year, and that many of them are destined to become established favourites. My confidence in them may be inferred from the circumstance that I hope to grow more than three-fourths of the entire number another season.

Let us now descend a little to particulars. We will give a brief glance at each individual, passing the whole under review, in alphabetical order.

Ariel may be designated as an unfortunate variety, unfortunate in the time of its appearance. Had it

come before the world one year earlier, its novel and delicate colour would have insured it many friends; but the contemporaneous appearance of another flower of its class, immeasurably its superior in every respect, has thrown it somewhat into the shade. Exhibitors, who grow on a large scale, may continue to cultivate it, but it will scarcely be needed by those who desire a selection of the very best kinds only. The absence of *Beauty of Slough* from the exhibitions raises some doubts on the score of its constancy. Flowers of this class are usually unstable; but, although not to be depended on, they are occasionally produced in such an extraordinary state of perfection that we cannot make up our minds to banish them from our collections. It is not improbable that such may prove the character of the variety now under consideration. *Colonel Baker* must have been a great disappointment to many. From the manner in which it was exhibited as a seedling, the highest expectations were naturally formed of it. We must yet have patience. That which has been may be again. There is every probability that this variety will prove to be all that we can expect or desire. *Dhawala Giri* (what a name!) has something about it very *taking*. It has not appeared often enough to justify us in giving a very decided opinion; but we are rather inclined to think that this variety will not detract from the high reputation of its raiser, presuming it to have sprung from the same source which supplied us with *Beeswing*, *Bob*, *Wellington*, *Alice*, and many others of high desert. *Fanny Keynes* is one of the gems of the season; but will perhaps require some management in certain localities. On strong, stiff, retentive soils it will produce perfect blooms, and plenty of them, without the slightest trouble; and in these situations it is one of the most constant dahlias extant: but on light porous land, the chances are that a very liberal supply of manure and a superabundance of water will be necessary adjuncts to its successful cultivation. Of *Glory* there is little to be

said ; it is a hopeless variety. *Golden Eagle* is a fine bold flower, desirable alike for its novel colour, great depth, and general good qualities. It presents a noble appearance in the back row, in which situation it will, in all probability, be very frequently seen for many years to come. *Indispensable* has scarcely justified its name ; nevertheless it possesses some desirable qualities. The petal is of good form and great substance ; the colour bright and decided. It has one property much desired by exhibitors, it will keep for an almost indefinite period. On the other hand, it lacks depth, is too flat on the face, and the unbloomed petals are not sufficiently incurved to form a neat and finished centre. *John Keynes* is a fine large back-row flower, of good average properties. It is a little low in the centre, a defect which might be overcome by growing it closely under a pot. The outline of this variety is very perfect, and its constancy indubitable. In *King of Yellows* we were promised the "best flower of its class," and the same eminence was predicted for two other yellows, Colonel Baker and *Indispensable*. It yet remains to be proved whether either of them can substantiate its claim to that post of honour. The variety under consideration, was certainly as nearly perfect as possible, when shown last year ; and we will yet hope to see it again in the same state. At all events, we must suspend judgment for the present. *Lady Bathurst* may be dismissed without much comment. We trust we shall be doing no injustice in the expression of an opinion that this variety will never occupy a very high position. *Lady Mary Labouchere* has been termed an improved Miss Vyse ; but the likeness is by no means striking. The latter is a constant flower and only second-rate in quality : the former is inconstant, but when caught, is extremely delicate and beautiful. *Magnet* is almost a good dahlia. *Miss Susan Sainsbury* is another of the Bath flowers. It is much after the style of Marchioness of Cornwallis ; and while it promises to be no less

chaste and elegant, it bids fair to prove no more constant than its charming prototype. *Mrs. Rawlings* is an exceedingly pretty kind, with a remarkably high centre, so high that the bloom is, literally, the segment of a circle. The raiser of this flower is evidently on the right path; his productions have, almost all of them, tight and prominent centres. He will do well not to lose sight of this important point. *Primrose Perfection* must be content to occupy a secondary position. Although it has the advantage of a high and prominent centre, its petals are too much quilled, in consequence of which, it is at times sadly deficient in outline. In *Rachel Rawlings* we have decidedly *the* flower of the season. It has been exhibited more frequently than any of the new varieties, and fully deserves the large amount of admiration it has gained. Less constant, it may be, than its sister flower, Fanny Keynes, it will, probably, be found to succeed better with the majority of growers: a light soil will be more suitable to it than a heavy one. This variety will continue for many years an ornament to our show boards. *Rosea elegans* is remarkable no less for its very delicate and attractive colour than for its peculiar stoutness of petal. It requires and will bear generous growth; under such treatment, it will amply repay the care and attention of the cultivator. In *Sarah* we recognize no advance upon other flowers of its class. *Talisman* has disappointed us much. The first blooms were so good that our expectations were raised to a very high pitch; but it soon became thin and open in the centre. Nevertheless, it must not be dismissed without a further trial.

Brief comment must suffice for the fancy dahlias of 1854. They are not numerous. *Admiration* is a brilliant and constant variety. *Butterfly*, something after the fashion of Flower of the Day, is a great improvement thereon. *Leader* is a large flower, of good proportions, with somewhat of a heavy appearance. We have, hitherto, seen nothing so good, in

its way, as *Marvel*. *Pigeon* appears to be of the right stamp, and quite new in colour. *Topsy* will take the place of *Elegantissima*, which it resembles much in colour, and which it far surpasses in every other particular.

A. S. H.

We are glad to find that the National Carnation and Picotee Society will hold their meeting for 1855 in connection with the fourth exhibition of the Royal Oxfordshire Horticultural Society; and we are quite sure, from what we know of that seat of learning and antiquity, that our floral brethren will have a high treat. It is not a little singular that the two "nationals" (tulips and carnations), for 1855, will be held, the one at Cambridge, and the other at Oxford.

We have received the schedule of the prizes of the Moira (Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leicestershire) Floral and Horticultural Society, and we are truly happy to find, on comparing it with those of the two previous years, that the progress of the society is most satisfactory. In looking over the rules, we find, by the fifteenth, "that a book will be kept, for the purpose of entering any communication that a successful exhibiter may think proper to furnish, relative to his mode of cultivation." This is a new feature, and we shall be glad to hear how it answers. There are numerous prizes for the working classes, colliers, &c. employed in the neighbourhood, evidencing a praiseworthy feeling for their welfare, on the part of the more wealthy promoters of the exhibition.

EXPERIMENTS WITH GARDEN PEAS.

THE following experiments with thirty-five varieties of garden peas will, no doubt, be interesting to our readers. The columns will show—*First*, the date when the seed was sown; *second*, when the plants appeared above the soil; *third*, when the

blossoms first appeared; and *fourth*, the date when the pods were fully ripe.

Section 1.—EARLIEST SORTS.	When sown.	Above Soil.	In Flower.	Pods Full.
Rendle's First Early	Mar.18	Mar.28	May 12	June 14
Warner's Early Conqueror	"	"	"	" 20
Prince Albert	"	"	" 16	" 22
Early Frame, or Warwick	"	"	" 24	" 27
Warner's Early Emperor	"	"	" 15	" 29
Bishop's New Long-podded	"	"	" 23	July 1
Torwood Lee	"	"	June 2	" 4
Bishop's Early Dwarf	"	"	May 18	" 5
Tall Sugar	"	Mar.30	June 7	" 5
Knight's Tall Green	"	" 29	" 2	" 6
Early Charlton, or Hotspur	"	" 28	" 10	" 10
Fairbeard's Champion of England	"	" 29	" 1	" 12
Fairbeard's Early Blue Surprise	"	" 28	" 1	" 12
Fairbeard's Nonpareil	"	" 28	" 12	" 12
Green Marrow Improved	"	" 29	" 8	" 12
Woodford's Marrow, or Nonsuch	"	" 30	" 10	" 12

Section 2.—LATER SORTS.	When sown.	Above Soil.	In Flower.	Pods Full.
Blue Prussian	Mar.18	Mar.31	June 15	July 13
Blue Scimeter	"	April 1	" 10	" 13
Spanish Dwarf	"	Mar.28	" 9	" 14
Auvergne	"	" 29	" 12	" 15
Burbidge's Eclipse	"	" 29	" 8	" 15
Bedman's Blue Imperial	"	April 1	" 10	" 15
Flack's Victory	"	"	" 10	" 15
White Prussian	"	Mar.28	" 10	" 18
Groom's Superb Dwarf Blue ..	"	April 1	" 18	" 21
Queen of Dwarfs	"	"	" 21	" 21
White Dwarf Marrow	"	Mar.30	" 15	" 22
Cormack's British Queen	"	" 30	" 18	" 22
Thurstone's Reliance	"	" 31	" 15	" 24
Knight's Dwarf White	"	" 29	" 20	" 24
Victoria Branching Marrow	"	" 30	" 19	" 26
Hair's Dwarf Green Mammoth	"	April 1	" 20	Aug. 5
King of the Marrows	"	Mar.31	" 15	" 5
Knight's Tall White	"	" 29	July 2	" 5
Knight's Dwarf Green	"	" 31	" 3	" 9

It will be observed, that the whole of the varieties were sown on the same day, and they have been arranged according to their earliness. Great care was taken by the foreman who had charge of these trials, to note every day with the greatest

exactness, and the dates may be fully relied on as being correct. A selection from the above list could with ease be made, so as to ensure a good successional crop for at least five months.

Rendle's Price Current.

We beg to call the attention of all tulip growers and especially those who intend to compete at the royal national tulip show, at Cambridge (we are happy to say that it will be under the patronage of Her Most Gracious Majesty), to the beautiful light fabric manufactured by our friend, Mr. W. R. Lymbery, of St. Ann's Hill, Nottingham (see advt.), for the protection of tulips, during their growth, previous to expansion. When it is recollected what mortification arises from having a first-rate flower injured by a hailstone, and the loss the grower may probably sustain, by missing a premier prize in consequence, we think we shall be doing good service to florists, by directing their attention to this most excellent article. We have used it for years, and can testify to its merits. If tulip growers do not avail themselves immediately of this opportunity of purchasing the net, at the low price quoted (three-pence-halfpenny the square yard), they must recollect it will not be our fault if they stand but little chance for the Cambridge cups, even though their beds may abound with splendid varieties.

NORTH OF ENGLAND SEEDLING SOCIETY.—I have great pleasure in stating that the committee of the North of England Seedling Society respectfully tender you their best thanks for the very prominent position in which you placed a notice of that society in your last issue of the *Midland Florist*; and further, to express the gratitude of every officer and member of the committee, for the friendly and excellent advice contained therein; assuring you at the same time, *that while they take Mr. Glenny's standard as the foundation of their decisions, they, nevertheless, see no impropriety in occasionally*

departing from that authority, *should the circumstances arise to warrant them in so doing.* With respect to future decisions on the tulip, I can assure Mr. Wood *that whatever wrong decisions other men may arrive at, we shall not by any such means be influenced thereby.* Purity of base we conceive to be the groundwork of the excellence of the tulip, and shall by no means *pass a seedling lacking the above trait.* From your critique, the decisions at Leigh, Blackburn, and other shows, seem, by inference, to have led you to conclude, that we, from local proximity, might fall into the same errors. As a society, we decry influences arising from *unsound decisions, wheresoever and by whomsoever* they are arrived at; and thank you respectfully for the opportunity of repudiating the apparent supposition.—*Bolton, December 3, 1854.*

CULTURE OF THE SARRACENIA.—A large importation of these singular plants having been sold in Nottingham, several of our friends have inquired how they are to be cultivated. Without entering into any lengthened detail, we give the following brief notice: They may be potted in peat soil, covering the surface of the soil with clean fresh moss. They may then be placed in earthenware saucers, filled with water, and put in a stove, or warm greenhouse, where they will require very little attention. When they have gone through their various phases of vegetation, and their period of rest arrives, water must be withheld, and they may be placed under the stage, in a greenhouse, or other out-of-the-way place, till spring, when they may be again potted, and the same process repeated.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.—The annual general meeting of the subscribers was held at the Lion Hotel, the Rev. J. Shaw in the chair. The committee for the present year having been appointed, and six or eight new members elected,

the Hon. and Rev. the Master of Magdalene College, the Rev. the Master of Christ's College, and Wm. Parker Hammond, Esq., were added to the list of vice-presidents. The committee having agreed to proceed with the revision of the prize list for the coming season, especially with the view of increasing the amount of some of the prizes, Mr. R. Headly then brought before the meeting the proposal of the Royal National Tulip Society to hold their next annual show in Cambridge, and, after some discussion, it was unanimously agreed to accept the offer, and undertake the management, arrangement, and responsibility of the same. It is to take place on the Wednesday in May on which the regular meeting of this society is usually held, and it was suggested that some more commodious spot or building than the Town-hall would be required. The shows of the National Society have been held for some years alternately in London, York, Derby, and other important provincial towns; and owing to the zealous exertions of Mr. Headly, assisted by the Rev. Algernon Peyton, who has evinced much interest in the matter, the especial sanction of Her Majesty has been obtained to the ensuing exhibition.

REVIEWS.



RENDLE'S PRICE CURRENT AND GARDEN DIRECTORY FOR 1855.

THIS is decidedly the best edition which has yet been issued of this excellent periodical, and contains an immense mass of very useful information. We shall, from time to time, make extracts from its pages, not only for the information of our readers, but to keep the work as much as possible (consistent with the space we devote to this subject) before our friends, which it well deserves. One useful experi-

ment, which will be found detailed in a preceding page, will be a great aid to parties who wish to have a succession of peas. Thirty-five varieties were sown on the same day (the 18th of March), and underwent the same management. The first on the list, Rendle's First Early, was ready on the 12th of July, whilst Knight's Dwarf Green had not attained the same perfection till the 9th of August, nearly a month later. We are sure all gardeners ought to be obliged to Messrs. Rendle & Co. for such a well-timed and conclusive experiment.

QUERIES AND ANSWERS.



I have about twenty-eight yards of wall, five feet high, the aspect due north. Do you think any kind of roses and honeysuckles, if trained on it, would flourish or flower? If so, name a few sorts that you think suitable, and the cost per dozen. I do not care so much for variety as for a neat covering, that would show a reasonable quantity of flower. Perhaps you can suggest some other plant to mix up. H.

[*Jasminum ochroleuca*, white, 2; *Jasminum Wallichianum*, yellow, 2. Both these will do; they are beautiful in foliage, and evergreen. *Pyrus Japonica*, red, 2; *Pyrus Japonica*, white, 2; Heart-leaved ivy, 2; *Aristolochia siphon*, splendid foliage, 2; *Clematis Hendersonii*, 2; Virginian Creeper. We are afraid honeysuckles would hardly flourish.]

CALENDAR OF OPERATIONS,

FOR FEBRUARY.

[*From Rendle's Price Current and Garden Directory.*]

Let all trenching, digging, manuring, &c. having reference to the operations of the succeeding summer, be completed before March arrives. This month is notorious for excessive moisture, and frequently offers very significant hints to those who under-rate the importance of draining. If the seed-room is not well supplied with the necessary seeds to run through the summer

and autumn, let the note-book be immediately referred to, and the articles procured. Resolutely bring up all arrears. Prepare some dung directly for a spring mushroom bed. Continue to prepare dung, &c. for linings and to make new beds. Look to composts, pile them up in a sharp ridge, to keep out rain. Prepare some nice slopes, to raise early carrots, radishes, &c. Select a nice border or slope for early potatoes out-doors, to receive covering.

ONIONS.—Make preparations for transplanting autumn-sown sorts, for early use. The potato or under-ground onion is useful for this purpose, and produces an abundant crop. In Devonshire, where it is much cultivated, they generally plant on the shortest day, and take up on the longest.

BEANS.—Sow in rows, in the open ground, and protect those sown in autumn from severe weather.

RADISHES sown in heat will require thinning as they come into rough leaf. Give air on all favourable occasions, to prevent them being drawn. Sow a little seed on warm borders, in the open ground, and protect.

BROCCOLI.—Sow a little of the early kinds, for autumn use, in pans.

CARROTS already up, will require thinning. Give plenty of air in mild weather. Sow a little in the open air, on warm borders, and protect.

ESCHALOTS AND GARLIC.—Plant without delay, if not already done.

PARSLEY.—Sow on warm borders, and protect.

SEA KALE AND RHUBARB.—Cover with pots, and apply hot dung, or some other material, for forcing.

SPINACH.—Sow in succession, between the rows of Peas. The round variety is best for spring.

PARSNIPS.—Sow for general crop at the end of the month.

TURNIPS.—Sow Early Dutch and Snowball. If these do not run, they will come in useful.

MELONS AND CUCUMBERS.—Sow for succession. Attend well to the linings of beds, and keep a good heat.

DWARF FRENCH BEANS.—Sow about the middle of the month, and transplant into hotbeds, covering the surface about six to eight inches with soil; or in pots, about three beans in eight-inch pots, to force.

CABBAGE.—Fill up vacancies, where those planted in the autumn have failed. Sow also a little for early use.

CAULIFLOWERS which have been protected through the winter may now be transplanted. Sow a little seed on heat.

PEAS.—Make a good sowing of early and second early sorts. Sow both at same time for succession. Sow also once a month, till July.

LETTUCE.—Sow some of the hardest sorts on warm border, and protect.

ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

ADDRESS TO OUR READERS.

I FEEL it very needful to say to the numerous readers of the *Midland Florist*, that I have accepted the responsibility of conducting this work, in Mr. Wood's absence, with reluctance and great diffidence, and only in deference to Mr. Wood's most urgent request.

It is needless to say I shall in nowise vary the conduct of the work, or pursue any course to take from it that character for gentleness and broad toleration, which has been its distinguishing characteristic under Mr. Wood's guidance, and which has gained for it such general appreciation and extensive circulation.

But heartily desirous that under my care the work shall lose nothing of its popularity, I sincerely invoke the assistance of all those who love flowers, believing that in thus enabling me to resign my charge into Mr. Wood's hands, upon his return, with undiminished lustre, we shall gratifyingly express to him our sense of his great worth, and the eminent service he has rendered to floriculture.

E. S. DODWELL.

Derby.

ON THE FEATHERING AND FLAMING OF THE TULIP.

As a young tulip fancier, I am anxious to have, before another blooming season, a correct definition of what is strictly a feather and what is a flame, from yourself, Dr. Hardy, or any of the leading amateurs who have been in the habit of judging at any of the larger shows.

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H

In the schedule, issued by Mr. R. J. Lawrence, of Hampton, last year, for the great national exhibition of tulips, he speaks thus :—" A feathered flower has the marking confined to the edges of the petals ; but what is called a flamed flower should also be *feathered* on the edges, and have a strong beam down the centre of each petal, and not the *beam only*, as in Holmes' King."

Now the first definition is plain enough, for a flower with the marking *entirely confined to the edges of the petals* must be a feathered flower in the strictest sense of the word ; but if a flower has a perfect feather with a beam, say half way down, or three quarters the length of the petal, what would be its position in the list of prizes ? It seems to me, that according to the preceding definitions, it could not win at all.

Again :—You talk of the midlanders being very fond of plenty of *workmanship* in the flaming. Now if a flower is first-rate in bottom, cup, and feathering, but with simply a beam down the middle of each petal, it appears to me that it would be rejected in the flamed class also, and this would no doubt be considered very hard by the exhibiter, as many very fine flowers are marked in this style, without any other marking than the beam and feather.

It seems to me, that Mr. Slater must be wrong when he says, at page 365, of last year's vol., " No one can deny that purity, *after form*, is the *sine qua non*." Now, this is making form the first property, and purity the second, but this seems to me nonsense. Comte de Vergennes wins in all parts of the country, on account of its purity, though the shape is middling ; but if its shape had been first-rate and its cup impure, it would not win at all, and therefore I conclude that Mr. Slater is quite wrong here. Can there be any doubt that we young beginners should consider purity as the first property ?

It seems to me, that the breadth of the feather should never occupy more than a certain proportion of the length of the petal—say a quarter—for the

greatest breath. When the marking exceeds this breadth, then I would suggest that the flower should be shown as a flamed flower.

Information on these points will much oblige.

WILLIAM JOHN.

[Will Mr. Hardy oblige us by commenting on the above?
E. S. D.]

FLOWERING PLANTS OF THE SEASON.

ON visiting, a few days ago, some of the small green-houses in and around Derby, many of which have been recently erected, I observed there was a great paucity of winter-flowering and other good greenhouse plants in some of them. This, in many instances, arises, not so much from an unwillingness on the part of the proprietors of those places to purchase plants, as from a want of a knowledge of those sorts likely to suit them. It occurred to me, that by giving, from time to time, the names of a few of our old established favourites, with an occasional remark as to their management, some little aid might be rendered to such persons, in making a selection of plants that would rarely disappoint. The following are the names of a few of those varieties I have seen during the past month, bearing a profusion of fine flowers. *Camellia alba flore pleno*, the old double white, is an especial favourite, as is also *C. fimbriata alba*. *C. elegans* (Chandler), a fine-growing sort, producing freely its large delicate rose-coloured flowers. *C. Donkelaari*, a dwarf free-flowering sort, flowers crimson, mottled with white. *C. imbricata rubra*, a fine crimson, flowers freely. *C. Lady Hume's Blush*, a very beautiful variety, when well grown. *C. Prince Albert* (Chandler), a very fine striped variety. *C. Marchioness of Exeter*, deep rose, finely-formed flower. The above are distinct sorts and good, and if the directions of your corres-

pondent, W. M., given at page 38 of your last month's number, he attended to in their management, no disappointment will result.

Daphne odorata rubra is one of the most desirable of winter-flowering plants. Its pretty pink and highly fragrant flowers are produced in clusters, at the ends of the shoots. It grows freely grafted on *D. mezereon*, *D. laureola*, or *D. pontica*. Soil and treatment as for the camellia.

All the varieties of *epacris* with which I am acquainted are really fine. *E. miniata*, *E. impressa*, *E. hyacinthiflora rosea*, *E. hyacinthiflora candidissima*, *E. grandiflora*, and *E. ardentissima* I have just seen bearing a profusion of splendid spikes of flowers.

Erica hyemalis, *E. Wilmoreana*, and *E. aristata vittata* are good.

Linum trygynum, with its brilliant yellow flowers, and *Deutzia gracilis*, with numerous small racemes of white flowers, are both good and distinct.

J. B.

[We shall much esteem a continuation of these papers.—Ed.]



TULIP CRITICISMS.

MR. WM. HARRISON TO MR. JAMES LIGHTBODY.

DEAR SIR,—I have just read your letter in the present number of the *Midland Florist*, and regret to find that you have occupied nearly three of its pages, without enlightening its readers *one whit* respecting the varieties of tulips in dispute. You begin by accusing me of being a *wayward* florist, and then occupy a whole page in giving us an account of your visitors to your tulip beds, consisting of ladies of rank, rising artists, &c. who disappointed you by not appreciating your best specimens. But there is nothing novel in this fact. Every cultivator could record similar experiences. A cultivated and uncultivated taste is necessarily distinct.

After this digression, you go on to say, that my twenty years' experience avails me nothing, without I have formed a proper taste for the beautiful, and as witnesses against my taste, among the *gems* described by me are *Hero of the Nile*, *Strong's High Admiral*, and *Emperor of Scarlets*. Now as no discussion can

be profitable without a rigid adherence to *truth*, let us see therefore whether I represented these three varieties as *gems* or not. At page 228 of last year's volume, in describing *Hero of the Nile*, I said that it was a most gorgeously feathered rose, with rich scarlet feather, cup rather long, and a little creamy, but a most beautiful *bed* flower. At page 230, I spoke of *Strong's High Admiral* thus:—A creamy ground and slight flaming; cup rather stained. In the same page, I describe *Emperor of Scarlets* as a "very creamy flower, and apparently worthless." Now, as these are my very words, I ask you and the readers of the *Midland Florist*, whether such descriptions are to be adduced as proofs of my bad taste and bad judgment? Either you have made a very serious mistake, or you have been guilty of a *wilful misrepresentation*.

Again, with respect to *Dark's Don Cossack*, you quote me when I say that it, "instead of being green in the bottom and, when heavy, quite foul, is a grandly feathered and flamed bizarre, on a rich yellow ground," and then you exultingly add, "Quite true, Mr. Harrison, *but you do not say that it is clean in the bottom.*" Now what is my description, published at page 269 of last year's vol.? It runs thus:—"A very grandly feathered and flamed bizarre, on a rich yellow ground. Flaming very regular and beautiful, colour dark, and *altogether* a most attractive bizarre." Now, how a flower could be altogether a most attractive bizarre, and not be clean in the base, I am at a loss to know. Here you are reduced to the necessity of throwing yourself into the arms of Mr. Slater, for support, and yet you directly after wheel round, and tell us that you consider Mr. Slater is no judge. Surely this is blowing hot and cold in the same breath, and making a very ungrateful return for the evidence afforded you. But what does Mr. Slater himself say, in another place, respecting this flower? Turn to page 281, vol. 2, of the *Midland Florist*, and you will find Mr. Slater describes it thus:—"A second-row flamed bizarre, raised by the same individual as Dangerous. It is evidently a seedling from Polyphemus, although different in form, foliage, &c. *The cup is extra, the bottom pure, the ground colour deeper than Polyphemus, and marks in the same style. It is very steady, and the best flamed bizarre in cultivation.*" Again, what does the Rev. S. Creswell, of Radford, say respecting this flower? At page 310 of the same volume, the reverend gentleman writes thus:—"Don Cossack was the best flower on Mr. Slater's bed; it is a dark flamed bizarre, feathers most beautifully, of excellent shape, and pure yellow base. This flower was raised by Mr. Dark, and is not to be surpassed." Thus much I give in defence of this very beautiful flower.

With respect to *Marcellus*, the evidence against you is various and incontrovertible. It has been grown here very fine, by Mr. Bromfield; it has been described at various times by

Messrs. Davidson and Orchard, as fine, in the pages of the *Midland Florist*; and last, though not least, it was in the *best stand of nine*, at the Horns Tavern, Kennington, last season, the judges being Messrs. Goldham, Lawrence, Willmer, and Lightbody, sen. This of itself seems to me sufficient, but taken altogether, the evidence is not to be doubted. Your remark upon Mr. Davidson's description of this flower, "he may have seen this flower free from the grizzlyness that I saw," is most uncandid, and such as should never be resorted to. I say that we have *no right* to dispute the truth of any man's descriptions, till we can prove that they are incorrect. It is not sufficient for any writer to describe a bad strain, and then condemn all the world for not agreeing with him. No one will in this instance blame the son for the judgment of the father, but many will be inclined to exclaim,

"Would that the son were worthy of the sire!"

As you seem disposed to let *Alexander's Jenny Lind* wear "her blushing honours" without molestation, I shall pass over this flower for the present. I have nothing to do with her origin or parentage, and merely describe flowers as I find them.

One word respecting Glenny's standard, and I have done. You say, "No one could ever get Mr. Glenny to say whether the *quarter* or the *half* of a hollow globe was right. He always *shuffled* this point. In this you are in error, and are truly like a midnight traveller in a moorland quagmire, the longer you flounder the deeper you get; for in your egotistical anxiety to disseminate your own opinions, you have actually forgotten what Glenny's properties are. Let me quote them from his almanack for 1847. "However some of our worthy friends may differ as to the form which would constitute perfection of form in the tulip, we obstinately, as our opponents say, contend that *one-third* to *one-half* of a hollow ball is alike good all through; but when it falls below the third, or collapses within the half, it departs from perfection. Here are the two extremes of our limit. A tulip which forms half a hollow ball would expand further with a little warmth, and would consequently be shallower; between these two extremes, every shade is beautiful." These are the properties advocated by Mr. Glenny, the third of a ball being his minimum, while the half ball is his maximum standard: but nowhere, that I ever heard of, did he advocate the *quarter* of a ball. He positively says, that when a tulip falls below a third, *it departs from perfection*. There can be no doubt that the northern amateurs consider the former standard much too shallow, and adhere to the latter, which, in point of depth, agrees with Dr. Hardy's, which I think may now be considered the established standard. I think there can be no doubt that the time is near at hand when the Hardy standard will be universally adopted, and it would be

well if future writers would keep it in view, and strictly avoid all comparison with *tundishes*, *goblets*, and such indefinite terms, which nobody in the world can understand.

I do not blush to say that I am yet ignorant of the form of your drawing, published in the *Florist*; but as you say that it is the first of a series of *three* designs, and as the other two are yet in a state of embryo, I am willing to wait the full time of incubation, and when the series is complete, we shall then see what additional light you throw upon the subject. For my part, let me have a pure bottom, a cup near the Hardy standard, and marking as fine as I can get it, and I shall therewith be content.

In conclusion, allow me to thank you for your kind invitation, which I hope I may be enabled to accept. If I have been "wayward" or captious in this correspondence, you must blame yourself. I trust, however, that should you again attack descriptive notes, by myself or others, you will bear in mind the wisdom of the lines of the good old poet, Merrick.

"When next you write of what you view,
Think others see as well as you;
Nor wonder if you find that none
Prefer your eyesight to his own."

PEAS.

THE list of peas given in the February number of the *Midland Florist*, reminds me that I have a few notes which may be useful to some of your readers, as, from the many varieties in cultivation, it is a difficult task to form an estimate of which is the best to grow, or which to discard, when all are so good. We have every year several new varieties offered to our notice, though I find but very few of them better than the old standard sorts. Of the following list the whole were sown on the same day, side by side, in rows, seven feet apart.

1. *Warren's Early Emperor*.—Sown March 13, gathered June 21. Height two to three feet, pods rather small, but numerous produced, and containing from four to six peas; flavour good. According to Rendle's list, there are several earlier sorts than this, which I hope to be able to prove during the present season; but be that as it may, I consider Warren's Early Emperor a good early sort.

2. *Bishop's Dwarf Long-podded*.—Sown March 13, gathered June 27. Height eighteen inches, good sized pod, containing from four to six peas; flavour good. Excellent for small gardens.
3. *Clark's Ringwood Marrow*.—Sown March 15, gathered July 1. Height five feet, flavour good. Not a marketable sort, on account of its yellow appearance when fit to gather, although when boiled, it is of the most beautiful green.
4. *Auvergne*.—Sown March 13, gathered July 8. Height five feet, pod very large, often containing from nine to twelve peas; flavour good. A great bearer, and decidedly one of the best peas in cultivation.
5. *Matchless Marrow*.—Sown March 13, gathered July 21. Height five feet, moderate bearer, pods containing from five to seven peas.
6. *Carter's Victoria*.—Sown March 13, gathered July 25. Height seven to eight feet, very large, a fine variety in every respect.
7. *Fairbeard's Champion of England*.—Sown March 13, gathered July 15. Height seven to eight feet, fine pods, full to bursting with deliciously flavoured peas. A good bearer, and altogether first-rate.
- 8, 9, 10. *Ward's Incomparable, British Queen, and Knight's Tall Marrow*.—All tall-growing sorts. Sown March 13, gathered about July 28. They are all good useful peas, possessing nearly equal merits. If there be any preference, I should give it to Knight's, on account of flavour.
11. *Knight's Dwarf Green Marrow*.—Sown March 13, gathered August 2. Height three feet. So well known as to need no description. It is one of our best peas for a late crop, keeping a long time in bearing.

As will be seen, several of the above are tall growers; these certainly are the best, where there are plenty of sticks to be had, but even then they must be sown in sheltered situations, or they are apt to be broken by the wind. For a small garden, I should recommend Nos. 1, 3, 4, 7, and 11, as these, sown the middle of March, would supply a constant succession, from the middle of June to the latter end of August.

W. S. M. M.

If you would enjoy your garden, never let your expenditure therein exceed the limit dictated by a just prudence.

NEW, RARE, OR GOOD FRUITS, FLOWERS, PLANTS, TREES, AND VEGETABLES.

WE noticed in our last number some new white fuchsias. It would appear that there are more varieties in the field, and that Messrs. Henderson have several, which they are now offering. Amongst them is *Story's Mrs. Story*, the sepals of which are crimson, reflexing well, and exhibiting the stout pure corolla to great advantage. *Queen Victoria* is in the same style, with wide scarlet sepals and white corolla. *Prince Albert* is said to be perfection itself, but it is one of that class of which we have so many, with scarlet sepals and violet corolla.

In scarlet geraniums there appears to be a considerable move, though of these we have a great quantity. Mr. Barnes, of Stowmarket, is letting out one called *Dawn of Day*, which is of excellent form, and very brilliant in colour. Mr. Smith, of the Tollyington Nursery, Islington, London, has two scarlets and a salmon rose. The latter in the way of a continental variety, called *Rose d'Amour*, novel and pretty; whilst *Beauty of Comb* is of dwarf and compact habit, with well-marked foliage, and large truss of finely-formed petals, beautifully set off with a well-defined light eye. *Chepstead Beauty* is another gem in this class, and is of excellent habit, with good foliage and large brilliant crimson flowers. *Life Guardsman* is another candidate for public favour, and is being sold out by Mr. Turner, of Slough. It, like *Beauty of Comb*, has a white centre, forming large globular trusses of brilliant scarlet flowers. *Brilliant* obtained a certificate at the National, for though the flowers are not large, still in the aggre-

gate they make a fine truss, and the colour being novel orange scarlet, renders it a very desirable variety.

In petunias there are several good things. For instance, *British Queen*, a great improvement on many existing varieties, which, unfortunately, are loose and flimsy. It combines form and substance in a remarkable degree, and the colour is attractive, being rich crimson in the body of the flower, with a lighter margin. *Singularity* has not, we are sorry to say, form to recommend it, but is one of those green-edged flowers which are sometimes seen, in the style of Prince de Rohan; still such flowers have their admirers, and this will be liked from the very cause from which it takes its name.

Verbenas are so easily raised from seed, that great numbers come out yearly as candidates for public favour. Mr. Geo. Smith, as usual, contributes his quota to the really fine varieties. *Violacea*, for instance, is a superb flower,—deep violet, with large white centre, forming a most attractive head of pips. *Boule de Feu* is, however, one of the flowers of the season. Rich orange scarlet, with lemon eye, of excellent form and habit. It gained first-class certificates from three different metropolitan societies, last season. *Empress* is a beautiful thing,—white, with rosy purple eye, habit good, fine smooth pip, and fine truss. As a capital contrast with either *Boule de Feu* or *Violacea*, it certainly is most desirable. *Lord Raglan* is another splendid scarlet, forming an excellent addition to the most select collections. *Wonderful*, coming out under the auspices of Mr. Turner, is also a grand variety. Large glossy purple, with conspicuous white centre. During the last summer, it has been found peculiarly suited for bedding, forming masses of its rich flowers of the most striking character. *Lady Lacon* too has been honoured with a first-class certificate. It is rose

colour, with large yellow centre, and forms fine masses of flowers.

Of dahlias there certainly are many to choose from, and we see that all are coming out with good characters. We will just glance at the various lots. Mr. Salter, of the Versailles Nursery, who has very extensive dealings with the continental nurserymen, and imports most of their best varieties, certainly has some striking novelties. For instance, *Miquel's Haidee*, bronzy lilac, each petal distinctly tipped with bright yellow; full, and with a high centre. Then we have *Alfred Salter*, of which every bloom is said to be sufficiently perfect for exhibition, which, by the by, is saying a good deal. The colour is bright vermillion, with every good property about it. *Cœur de Lion* is crimson chestnut, and said to be first-rate. *Countess of Errol*, ivory white, with lilac edge, very attractive. There are many others, of singular character and bizarre colours, but we pass on, to see what Mr. Keynes is introducing. *Annie Rawlings*, the best flower of a scarce class, a beautiful lilac, of exquisite form. *Ruby Queen* has been most successfully exhibited, and gained several first-class certificates. Quite first-rate in every respect, and from the novelty of its colour, in addition to its other excellencies, must be an indispensable flower for a stand. There is also a fancy, called *Miss Frampton*, which has been highly successful. Very fine in form, blood red, tipped with white. *Comet* too is likely to be a favourite in this class. Yellow and scarlet striped, extremely showy. Mr. Turner's lot comprises some gems of the first water. *Pre-eminent* comes first,—deep plum colour, of excellent form. *Espartero* is one of the Sir Charles Napier breed, darker in colour and altogether a beat on that flower. *Lord Both* is an improvement on Sir F. Bathurst. This is as it should be, for no flower ought to be let out, unless it excels those already in cultivation. *Beauty of Bath* is a splendid yellow variety, not so large as some, but

a flower of great refinement. *Ringleader* is rich ruby, of the finest form and most beautiful substance. These, with *Baron Alderson*, previously noticed in our pages, bright orange, with a distinct tip; *Cossack*, *Agincourt*, *Glenlyon*, *Constancy*, and *The Nigger*, the blackest dahlia yet raised, make a very tempting collection to select from.

Of hollyhocks, Mr. R. B. Bircham, of Bungay, Suffolk, has exhibited some splendid flowers, during the season, but, like most other things, they require attention and generous treatment to do them well, the same flower being as different as light from dark under distinct methods of cultivation. *Empress*, a delicate primrose, with splendid spike, has taken a first-class certificate. *Purple Perfection*, fine distinct light purple, is another beautiful thing. *Criterion*, a large light flower, mottled occasionally, the base of the petals being chocolate; a very interesting flower. *Omar Pacha*, pale yellow, with a chocolate base, has been shown in fine character. This and *Lemonade*, in somewhat the same style, are flowers of first-rate excellence. Messrs. Paul & Sons are letting out some fine seedlings, and their claim to public attention is based on the fact, that they are improvements on pre-existing varieties. They certainly display a galaxy of beauty, and we cannot refrain from giving their characters, and doubt not but, under proper management, they will come up to all that is said of them. *Lord Jocelyn* is a brilliant carmine, of excellent form, and making a beautiful spike. *Argo* is pale yellow, the flowers as well as the spike large; a very attractive variety. *Glory* is a glorious sort, with an excellent showy spike of light scarlet flowers. *Aspasia*, a most beautiful blush, contrasts well with *Metropolitan*, a noble crimson variety, the petals of which are of great substance. *Sidonia* is not so large as some we have enumerated, but is a novel and pretty variety, being light rose, margined with crimson. *Cato* is puce coloured, with a fine compact

spike. *Model Pet*, we think, will be the forerunner of something good, in a new style, being white, veined with crimson; it only wants size. *Darius* is a desirable sort, its distinct salmon buff colour forming a fine contrast. *Boadicea* is salmon pink, and *Louis Napoleon* is light pink, veined with chocolate. From the description, our readers will see that Messrs. Paul have shown great judgment in selecting twelve seedlings varying so much in colour, yet combining the qualities of density of spike and good form. Of other subjects, there are,—

ESCALLONIA PTEROCAULON.—This plant has high recommendations to the lover of a garden. It is a pretty shrub, hardy, evergreen, four to five feet high, an abundant bloomer, and fragrant, leaves like a small-leaved myrtle, and very pretty, almost epacris-like flowers, white tinged with red. It derives its name from certain wavy wings which stand out from the young wood, and of which, traces are for a long time visible on the old branches, although they eventually disappear.

ESCHSCHOLTZIA TENUIFOLIA.—A new dwarf annual, peculiarly adapted for forming masses, or for edgings to beds. It is of a delicate clear straw colour, of neat compact habit, about nine inches in height, foliage small, and producing flowers in abundance. It is much dwarfer and neater than *E. Californica*.

LEPTOSIPHON AUREUM is another annual of dwarf compact habit, flowers of bright golden colour, and very showy; has a beautiful effect in small beds. It is also well adapted for growing in small pots or boxes, for greenhouse decorations.

PRIMULA MOLLIS. (*Soft-leaved Bootan Primrose*.)
—Sir W. Hooker says this is a charming new primula, of the primulastrum section, and intermediate, as it

were, between *Primula sinensis* and *P. cortusoides*, but very different from either in foliage, corolla, and especially calyx. It is a native of the mountains of Bootan, where it was discovered by Mr. Booth, and the plants were reared from seeds sent by him to his relative, Mr. Nuttall, of Rainhill, near Prescott. They flowered in April of last year. That gentleman has hitherto treated it as a hardy greenhouse plant, but, probably, it will bear the open air, and may be considered as bearing the same treatment as *P. cortusoides*. The flowers are deep rose-colour, and in three or four whorls, one above another, on the scape, or flower-stem.

FLEMING'S HYBRID CASHMERE MELON.—The above new melon was raised by Mr. Fleming, at Trentham, and exhibited by him, for the first time, at the great meeting of the Horticultural Society of London, at Chiswick, on the 10th of June last, when it was awarded the first prize, and was pronounced by the judges to be decidedly the best melon known.

EXTRACTS, HINTS, AND RECOLLECTIONS.



THE NATIONAL FLORICULTURAL SOCIETY.

FEW societies originated for the advancement of floriculture, have the claims upon the support of florists of every grade which belong to this. For what does it propose to do? This. "First, to have one central tribunal, composed of men from all parts of the country, to which shall be submitted for judgment all seedling productions, before they are sold out to the public.

“Secondly, to have meetings for their exhibition, and for the finest varieties already out or going forth, with which seedlings can be compared.

“Thirdly, to supply in printed reports, the real character of the productions brought before this tribunal.”

Now setting out with a distinct statement of our opinion, that not one-tenth of the chicanery which we have frequently observed to be imputed to floricultural dealings has any existence in fact; believing merely that there are ignorant and unwary florists who are exposed to the knaveries of sharpers and swindlers, just as ignorance and unwariness are invariably exposed to the practices of knaves in every calling or profession; we yet know that a monstrous evil connected with floriculture had grown to a most alarming height, and that nothing but a most resolute stand on the part of those concerned could effectually check it. We allude to the hosts of new flowers and novelties which season after season were poured forth for the notice of purchasers, all rejoicing in the most brilliant qualities, and, according to the description of their raisers or sellers, indued with every good property under the sun. Well, we think it quite possible this evil may have been of a magnitude, certain, if not checked, to be fatal to the best interests of floriculture, without throwing out imputations of knavery and chicanery by wholesale. We think a much more simple and innocent explanation may be found in the known partialities of all parents, the wide variation of tastes, and the partial information which must always belong, at best, to individuals. Of the ludicrous effects of our partialities in blinding us to the existence of evils, scores of instances might be adduced, but we will content ourselves with reciting one, which, albeit that it is not floricultural, will serve our turn. Some years ago, “when George III. was king,” and Wilkes was suffering persecution from an old tory government, popular opinion ran very high, and it was rare for half-a-dozen good

folks to meet without a hot discussion *pro* and *con*. In one of these contests, after a warm admirer of the demagogue had triumphantly defended him from a host of charges, he was defiantly confronted with the question, "I suppose you'll grant he squints?" "*squints!*" said the gentleman, "*squints! certainly, but no more than every gentleman should.*"

Now I am afraid it was the case that many of our florists, unable to conceal from themselves the decided "squint" of their productions, still held firmly to the belief that they only "squinted as all good flowers should" — meanwhile floriculture suffered the direst evils from this obliquity of vision, and to remedy these evils this society was formed. How it has worked let this simple statement suffice. In the past season, six hundred and fifty productions were brought forward by upwards of one hundred exhibitors, and of these six hundred and fifty productions, fifty-nine only obtained awards. Of these awards, twenty were of the first class, thirty-two certificates of merit, and seven labels of commendation. Of the gentlemen who voted these awards, thirteen are private growers, and five dealers. Can we show a greater necessity for the existence of the society, or a better proof of its excellent working? But perhaps some of our readers may desire to know somewhat as to the management, and as everything public is open to criticism, we will state what we know of that. The management then, comprises our floricultural magnates, gentlemen of undoubted honour, and of unblemished integrity; whilst in the ranks of the supporters of the society is to be found every name noted for great skill, whatever may be the subject of his care.

One thing we would gladly see as a means of widely extending the influence of the society, viz., the admission of subscribers of five shillings, or thirty pence only, in place of the present limit of twenty one shillings, or ten shillings and sixpence. Let all those who have the means subscribe the latter sums, and have a corresponding number of copies of the report,

but widen the basis, to admit the poor men now excluded. Annexed we give the awards for the past year:—

AURICULA.

Eclipse (Turner), C.M.—Grey edge, very dense black ground, with fine paste, tube of fair average, with good truss of ten expanded pips, which are of general average form.

King of Crimson (Turner), L.—This is an alpine, with buff-coloured ground and brilliant crimson edge, in form first-rate, the pips of medium size, but of good substance, the truss small, the plant blooming for the first time.

AZALEA.

Criterion (Ivery & Son), F.C.C.—A pinkish flesh colour, distinctly margined with white, and occasionally striped with purplish crimson, the throat spotted with the same colour, of very good form, large size, rather slight substance, the foliage small and neat.

Robinsoni (Robinson), F.C.C.—A soft vermillion scarlet, with slight marking in the throat; of good form, medium size, and first-rate waxy substance.

Gem (Ivery & Son), F.C.C.—A rich deep salmon colour, slightly spotted at the base of the upper segments; of first-rate form, medium size, and stout substance.

CALCEOLARIA.

Eclipse (Cole), F.C.C.—A bright crimson, with slight margin of yellow on the upper side of the flowers; of dwarf habit and medium size, good truss, good form and substance, the foliage not first-rate.

Skrubby Dazzle (Cole), L.—A marone, of good bedding habit, bold truss, and large flowers.

CARNATION.

Exit (May), F.C.C.—A scarlet flake, with good white; a large flower, of good form, size, and substance.

CINERARIA.

Lady Mary Labouchere (Turner), F.C.C.—White, with violet edge, and violet purple disk; of very good form and medium size.

Mrs. Forster (Turner), C.—White, with a deep margin of heavy lilac; of good form, medium size, and desirable substance.

Rose of England (Bousie), C.—Clear white, with a deep edging of rosy purple; of medium form, rather large size, and rather slight substance.

Sir Charles Napier (Turner), C.—A solid indigo blue self, disk of same colour; of good form for its colour, average size, and good substance.

Admiral Dundas (Ivery), C.—Clear white ground, deeply edged with crimson purple, and purple disk; striking colour and good habit.

Fascination (E. G. Henderson), C.—Cobalt blue, and grey disk, surrounded with narrow circle of white; of robust habit, first-rate form, medium size, and good substance; a chaste and attractive flower.

Lady Paxton (Turner), C.—Purplish lilac, on a white ground, and very dark purple disk, the truss and flowers very large; of good substance; one of the boldest and most free-flowering varieties.

Query (Lochner), L.—Light purple, with a white circle round a purple disk; a good truss, moderate form, and medium size.

DAHLIA.

Miss Frampton (Rawlings), F.C.C.—A deep blood ground, with shaded white tip; good form and substance, and medium size.

Ruby Queen (Keynes), F.C.C.—Brilliant ruby colour; of very good substance, medium size, and good form.

Baron Alderson (Perry), F.C.C.—A pure orange colour, with white tip; a good form as a fancy; of full size, and good substance.

Espartero (Turner), F.C.C.—A rich crimson; of first-rate form and good substance, size below medium.

Mrs. Stowe (Dodds), C.—A delicate lilac; of middling form, medium size, and fair substance.

Lady Folkstone (Keynes), C.—A yellowish buff, tipped with bright rosy purple; form middling, the centre being rather flat; of medium size and good substance.

Comet (Keynes), C.—Light yellow ground, with light pink edge, and striped and spotted with carmine; form middling, and slightly ribbed; of medium size and fair substance; a useful fancy show flower.

Mrs. Howard (Pope), C.—Light yellow, shaded and tipped with rich salmon; of middling form, medium size, and good substance; a very useful and promising flower of its class.

Lollipop (Holmes), C.—A rosy buff, tinged with lilac; good form, medium size, and average substance; novel colour; a first-class form, but produced by the petals being reflexed.

Cossack (Rev. C. Fellowes), C.—Brilliant crimson; of second-rate form, full size, and good substance; a good centre, and apparently constant.

Fanny Russell (Prockter), C.—A salmon-coloured ground, sides of petal orange buff, with large flesh-coloured tip; a somewhat flat form, of medium size, and average substance; a useful fancy flower.

The Nigger (Rev. C. Fellowes), C.—A very dark purple, approaching black in the centre; of middling form, average size, and fair substance; distinct in colour, and apparently constant.

FUCHSIA.

Thalia (Turner), C.—White waxy tube, slightly tipped with green, corolla deep rose; of first-rate habit, and very fine foliage.

GERANIUM.

Brilliant (Skelton), C.—Brilliant orange scarlet, with neat small foliage, a good truss, flowers small, form and substance good.

Variegated Queen (Cole), C.—A light brilliant scarlet; foliage green, edged with pale or sulphur yellow, mottled with light carmine; the truss large, having a great number of pips; flower large size, and substance good.

HOLLYHOCK.

Lord Jocelyn (Messrs. Paul), F.C.C.—A brilliant carmine; of first-rate form, full size, and good substance.

PANSY.

Mr. Thomson (Bragg), F.C.C.—A deep yellow ground, with broad margin of deep marone; a bold solid eye, the lower and side petals laced with uniform yellow; of medium form and substance.

Memnon (Turner), C.—A dark purple marone, of average form and substance; large size, texture and surface good, colour solid, and free from the usual light shade in the centre of dark selfs.

Beauty (Downie & Laird), C —A creamy white ground, with a heavy belting of purple; the eye not first-rate, of medium size, and moderately good form and fair substance.

PELARGONIUM.

Wonderful (Hoyle), F.C.C.—The upper petals marone, paler near the margin, and narrowly bordered with rosy pink; the lower petals rosy pink, slightly blotched with carmine, and a pure white centre; of dwarf vigorous habit, a very abundant bloomer, truss of four or five pips; of medium size, and good form and substance.

Conqueror (Beck), F.C.C.—A crimson, with dark rich marone upper petals, margined with crimson; of middling habit and medium truss, averaging five pips, of good form and substance; foliage rather small.

Phaeton (Foster), F.C.C.—A carmine crimson, with dark upper petals, margined with rich carmine; of good habit, the truss medium, averaging four pips, and of first-rate form, size, and substance, and good foliage.

Ne plus ultra, Fancy (Turner), F.C.C.—Dark purple marone, lower and upper petals margined with lilac; of first-rate habit, and good truss; the flowers large, with good foliage, and with first-rate form and substance.

Gem of the West (Dobson), C.—White ground, upper petals marked with rich crimson; of good habit and substance; outline good, but slightly reflexed; flowers of medium size, the truss of five pips well arranged; short jointed, and good compact foliage.

Grand Sultan (Turner), C.—Upper petals very rich dark marone, with faint carmine edge; lower petals light carmine, with bold marone spot and veining, the eye rather bluish; of vigorous habit, the truss averaging four blooms, of medium size, of average good form and substance.

Serena (Hoyle), C.—Upper petals very dark marone, with pale rosy margin; lower petals pale lilac rose, with deeper coloured blotch and veins, centre pure white; of vigorous habit, and the truss averaging five blooms; of medium size, and of average form and substance.

King of Crimson, Fancy (Turner), C.—Purple crimson, with light throat; of good character and habit, middling truss, form, and substance.

Pandora (Turner), C.—The upper petals a dark rich marone, slightly margined with crimson, veined clean light throat, a good truss, averaging five pips; of medium habit and good form and substance.

Silenus (Beck), C.—A shaded crimson, upper petals dark rich marone, margined with crimson; foliage and habit good, truss averaging five pips, form middling, of medium size and good substance.

Lord Raglan (Hoyle), L.—Bright rosy scarlet, shaded with orange scarlet around the veiny marone blotch; lower petals rather paler; a bold truss, averaging six flowers of large size and good substance.

BEDDING PELARGONIUM.

Sydonia Carminia (Mrs. Latham), C.—A salmon, pink shaded; of very good bedding properties.

PHLOX.

Anniflora Compacta (Dobson & Son), C.—A white, of dwarf habit, very compact, the flowers rather small, of good shape and substance.

PICOTEE.

Finis (May), F.C.C.—A white, lightly edged with deep purple; of large size, first-rate substance, and good form.

Mrs. Headly (Turner), F.C.C.—A white, deeply edged with carmine; of good form, first-rate substance, and middling size.

PINK.

Brunette (Maclean), C.—A full flower, heavily laced with purplish crimson; the petals bold and remarkably broad, but with a serrated margin; of medium size and good form and substance, but rather deficient in the crown, and a first-rate pod.

New Criterion (Maclean), C.—A good petal, with a moderate and even lacing of purple; of medium size and moderate form.

SWEETWILLIAM.

Splendens (Hunt), L.—Vivid crimson, with darker ray round the paler centre; full size and good form, rather cupped.

Omar Pacha (Hunt), L.—Dense velvety carmine, with brilliant carmine centre; of full size, good form, and the petals flat.

The Prince (Hunt), L.—Carmine, with darker mottled ray, and rather paler eye; of medium size and good form.

ROSE—HYBRID PERPETUAL.

Duchess of Norfolk (Wood & Son), C.—A deep carmine; of first-rate habit as a pillar rose, with good foliage; of full size and fair substance.

VERBENA.

Boule de Feu (G. Smith), F.C.C.—A bright orange scarlet, with distinct light eye form good, and a first-rate truss.

Lady Lacon (Turner), F.C.C.—Pale rose colour; truss full (twelve pips), of circular form and good substance; the habit and foliage good.

Wonderful (Turner), C.—Bright rich purple with light eye and good habit and foliage; a full truss of from fifteen to twenty pips; large flowers, not of first-rate form; the substance good.

ON PREPARING SOILS AND COMPOSTS.

SINCE the use of manure in a liquid state has become so very fashionable among both professional and amateur cultivators, it is doubtful whether too little attention has not been paid to the use of proper soils and composts, for though manure in the liquid state is a convenient and excellent aid, it is quite certain that a properly prepared compost, as containing all

the ingredients which a plant can require from the soil, is the best to be used. According to old rules, or, indeed, to practices of the present time, composts consist of various ingredients mixed together in the prepared or decomposed state, as mellow loam, leaf-mould, rotten dung, &c. These, though good and healthy, except in special cases, are not calculated to induce luxuriant growth, for the manure of old hot-beds, the kind generally used, is not rich, neither is the soil from old commons, which is generally preferred. Now, in the growth of plants, more especially for purposes of exhibition, it is customary to limit the size of pots for certain kinds of plants, and hence, those who aim at high cultivation, have to seek in rich compost what the plants, under other circumstances, would find in a quantity of soil; in fact, they endeavour to concentrate, in a given space, the fertility of a larger volume of material. Without entering into the rationale of the subject, it is well-known that annual and soft-wooded plants require more manure than shrubs and trees, and hence, to get the greatest quantity of nourishment into the smallest space, without, at the same time, making the soil or compost unhealthy, is a secret worth knowing. Although much has been written in favour of guano, superphosphate of lime, and other manures, we never use them. In the stable, the cowshed, and the sheep-walk, all that is required for horticultural purposes may be found, and hence no risk need be run of this being too strong, or that too weak. If it were given as a problem, "What is the best compost to prepare for the general cultivation of soft-wooded plants?" the following would be our answer:—Procure from a suitable place, two cartloads of rich loam, with the turf on, and as free from oxide of iron as possible; then get from the nearest stable, where the horses are highly fed, a large cartload of dung, selecting that which has been thoroughly soaked with urine—for it must be recollected the urine carries off the soluble salts of the food of the animal, and the excretia the

mineral, and hence, it is very important that both should be had. When you have got the loam and manure home, place each in a separate heap, three or four yards apart, shaking the manure out, and mixing it together just as you would to prepare it for a hotbed, only do not allow it to heat too violently; to prevent which, it will be necessary to shake it out every three or four days. In a fortnight it will be fit for use; then commence, as you would to form a hotbed, by marking out the ground, say six feet long, and four feet wide, and upon this place a layer of the hot dung, nine inches deep, and then a layer of loam, and so proceed, reserving a good layer of loam for the top, until all is used. In forming the bed, beat the manure firmly, as you proceed, but leave the loam loose, and square the work up properly at the last. Then place over the heap loose litter to the thickness of twelve or eighteen inches, and cover the whole with mats, closely pegged down; the object being to excite fermentation, and to prevent the escape of the ammonia and other essential gasses. The heap may remain in this state for a fortnight or three weeks, or until the heat begins to decline, then turn it over, taking care to throw the sides into the middle, and to mix the loam and dung thoroughly throughout. The covering must be again put on as before, and remain on until fermentation has almost ceased. Here then we have a compost as rich as the manure it is formed of; but it is so strong that great caution must be exercised in its use, or injury will be the result. To prepare it, however, lay it out in thin ridges, fork it over once a-week, to expose it to the ameliorating influence of the weather, but protect it from drenching rains, which would soon wash all the nutriment away. After being exposed for a few weeks to the full air, the outsides of the ridges will be fit for use; but if it could be exposed for twelve months before using, it would be all the better. Except for very strong-growing plants, this soil is too strong for general purposes, and hence—more especially when

used in a fresh state—a portion, say one-third, of fresh loam should be mixed with it.

The above is a compost which we can recommend for soft-wooded plants of all kinds, and in it, when properly prepared, plants may be grown stronger, and more healthy, in three-inch pots than they are generally seen in pots double the size. 'Nurserymen would do well to pay more attention to this subject, as they frequently put their patrons to the expense of carriage of large pots when smaller ones would do. This, or soil similarly constituted, forms the staple in which the magnificent pelargoniums, fuchsias, calceolarias, cinerarias, roses, &c. seen at the London exhibitions, are grown, and its strength accounts for the wondrous growth attained in such small pots. The spring is the best time to prepare such compost, keeping it turned weekly, throughout the summer; but a good stock should always be kept, so that it may be properly sweetened before using.

A.

ROSES.

[*From the National Garden Almanack.*]

FOR the last season or two, there has been no paucity of novelties among roses, many of which may fairly claim, not only distinctness of colour, but decided improvement in form.

Of those which have been introduced and naturalized sufficiently to enable them to be spoken of with something like confidence, as to their various habits, &c., those here particularized may safely be added to collections, without fear of disappointment.

Starting with the gems of the season (1853-4), *Prince Leon* and *Paul Dupuy* fairly claim that title,—the first a clear cherry crimson, not very double, but with petals of a substance which give its autumnal bloom quite a non-fading character, retaining its

form and colour four days in perfection; besides which, it is a model of the cup shape, with a robust habit. The other is a rich shaded crimson, with a full centre, its guard petals giving it the cup shape also, but shallower. They are both sweetly, though differently scented.

Of clear pink varieties there are several good ones. *Baron de Heckeren* and *Louis Peronny* are our choice. Both are nicely formed, but the habit of the latter is the stoutest. *Baron de Kermont* is also a good variety, in the same style, but rather vase than cup-shaped. Of rose colours, deep, bright, rich, &c., we had received a host. The cream of them, however, may be considered to be included in the following:—*Joseph Descaine*, *James Veitch*, *Comte de Bourmont*, *Inermis*, *Dr. Julliard*, and *Eugene Sue*,—all being of the old-fashioned colour, with nicely-formed flowers. The last is a fine rose, but rather a “hard opener.” *Duchesse d’Orleans* must not be forgotten in the rose colours, being of a shade tinged with lilac, and is a fine bold and perfectly-formed flower.

The various shades of carmine are so generally admired, that good varieties of that colour are sure to be acceptable. *Alexandrine Bachmetiff* and *Souvenir de Leveson Gower* are both nicely formed and richly coloured. *General Castellaine* is, however, rather darker, and of model form, but not of over-robust habit; and *Charles Boissiere*, of a reddish tinge, is large and very double, and an excellent pot-rose.

In crimsons, we have certainly a glorious flower in *Le General Jacqueminot*, a rich velvety petal, not quite so bright as *Geant des Batailles*, nor quite so double, but larger, with very much better form. *Souvenir de Reine des Belges* is a nice flower, in the way of *Prince Albert*, H.P., but brighter, and somewhat like *Rivers*. *L’Infant du Mont Carmel*, a light crimson, is desirable, where large robust-growing varieties are essential.

Of *really* dark hybrid perpetuals there has long been a want, and in *Triomphe de Paris* we have a variety many shades darker than any of its predecessors, its colour being as near an approach to the crimson boursault as possible. It has also the shallow cup form to perfection.

The new white damask perpetual, *Celina Dubos*, with very pale blush centre, though believed to be a sport from Rose du Roi, is very constant, and is the nearest approach to pure white among the perpetuals, the raising a hybrid perpetual of that colour (?) having yet to be accomplished. The two brightest H.P.s that may be depended on are, *Mrs. Rivers*, a beautifully shaped and scented rose, a counterpart in colour and shape to Alba Le Seduisant; the other, *Rosine Margottin*, is also well formed, but the petals are not so deep as the former, and may be described as Duchesse de Montpensier much improved.

The new white damask perpetual, though supposed to be a sport from Rose du Roi, has proved quite constant, and is a very great acquisition.

To the Bourbons we have several additions, the best of which is undoubtedly *Vorace*, a rich beautifully-formed crimson, shaded with purple. *Prince Albert* (Paul), a bright deep cherry colour, is good; as is *Souvenir de l'Arquebuse*; and the peculiar crimson, shaded with purple, of *Reveil*, is novel; besides which, *Louis Odier*, a bright rose colour, of strong habit and good shape, is a useful variety.

In tea roses, the greatest recent novelty is *Gloire de Dijon*, and certainly the colour (an ochreous yellow), the size (as large as *Jaune Desprez*), and the tea scent, make it a great acquisition. *Madame Willermoz*, in the way of, but hardly so stout as *Devoniensis*, has a nankeen centre, and is a nice rose; and *Canary*, the name of which well conveys the colour, is very pure, but it is rather delicate, and not very double.

In this list, I have purposely confined myself to those which have earned the characters here given of

them, in an exposed situation and a cold stiff soil. There are, I am aware, several which I might, perhaps, have included with safety, but I would much rather delay those here omitted, that I may include them with equal confidence in a list that I trust I shall be spared to prepare for your next serial.

C. G. WILKINSON.

Western Rose Nursery, Ealing.

TULIP SHOW.

At the Angler's Inn, Bridge-street, Staley Bridge, May 27, 1854.

Maiden Prizes.—1. Bienfait, E. Jackson. 2. Charles X., A. Kay. 3. Trafalgar, W. Cottam.

Feathered Premium Prize.—Surpass Catafalque, J. Miller.

Feathered Bizarres.

- 1 Charles X., A. Kay
- 2 Waterloo, T. Chadwick
- 3 Trafalgar, W. Cottam
- 4 Crown Prince, E. Jackson
- 5 Magnum Bonum, J. Miller
- 6 Rising Sun, T. Penk

Flamed Bizarres.

- 1 Duke of Devonshire, J. Barratt
- 2 Paul Pry, T. Penk
- 3 Lustre, W. Hilton
- 4 Duke of Lancaster, J. Miller
- 5 Lacantique, ditto
- 6 Liberty, W. Hilton

Feathered Bybloemens.

- 1 Bienfait, E. Jackson
- 2 Fonce Fonce, W. Hilton
- 3 Violet Wallers, E. Gartside
- 4 Mango, J. Miller
- 5 Louis XVI., J. Barratt
- 6 Delight J. Miller

Flamed Bybloemens.

- 1 Bienfait, J. Barratt
- 2 Queen Adelaide, J. Miller
- 3 Pyramid of Egypt, ditto
- 4 Incomparable, T. Chadwick
- 5 La Belle Narene, A. Kay
- 6 Sable Rex, E. Jackson

Feathered Roses.

- 1 Lady Crewe, W. Hilton
- 2 Comte de Vergennes, J. Barratt
- 3 Andromeda, W. Hilton
- 4 Unknown, J. Shawcross
- 5 Dolittle, E. Gartside
- 6 Seedling, ditto

Flamed Roses.

- 1 Rose Unique, J. Barratt
- 2 Aglaia, J. Miller
- 3 Rose Vesta, J. Shawcross
- 4 Lady Crewe, W. Hilton
- 5 Roi de Cerise, T. Penk
- 6 Rose Regina, W. Hilton

Bizarre Breeders.

- 1 Unknown, A. Kay
- 2 Cato, J. Barratt
- 3 Unknown, T. Chadwick

Bybloemen Breeders.

- 1 Van Amburg, A. Kay
- 2 Lady Flora Hastings, E. Gartside
- 3 Princess Royal, J. Miller

Rose Breeders

- 1 Village Maid, T. Penk
- 2 Lady Stanley, J. Miller
- 3 Unknown, ditto

Sels.

- Yellow, Min d'Or, J. Miller
White, J. Barratt

CHILIAN ALSTRÆMERIAS.—Some of our friends have inquired about these very beautiful plants. They should be grown in a bed prepared for their reception, by excavating it to the depth of two feet, and placing at the bottom some large sough tiles, on

the top of which must be laid four inches of broken brick. These will give a good drainage which is absolutely necessary for their perfect health. The bed may then be filled up with light compost of peat, very rotten manure, decayed leaves, and sandy loam. It should have a raised margin of wood, or stone, so that in the winter, a thick covering of leaves may be laid over it, to protect the plants from frost. The leaves may be removed in spring, and if the bed is hooped, and mats thrown over it as the plants vegetate, the greater will be the success, and the longer the period of bloom.

REVIEWS.



THE NATIONAL GARDEN ALMANACK, AND HORTICULTURAL TRADE DIRECTORY, FOR 1855. By John Edwards, F.H.S. *Chapman & Hall, London.*

It would very imperfectly convey an idea of the merit of this annual, to say it is by far the best of its class. For, not only are we spared the tediousness and whole volume of errors annually inflicted upon us by some of the compilers of garden almanacks, and the nausea, which inevitably attends the attempt to wade through the offensive matter which distinguishes one, but in addition to a calendar specially compiled for the interest of the gardening community, a diary for engagements or other memoranda, and all the usual matter given in an almanack, we have admirably selected lists of every class of flowers, new plants of the year, and selected lists of stove and greenhouse plants, with their several periods of flowering, the whole accompanied with a commentary of racy and wholly original remarks, extending over fifty pages, which no one can omit to read without loss.

The horticultural trade directory gives all the important firms abroad, as well as in the United

Kingdom, and is the most correct and extensive ever published. The possession of this alone is a *sine qua non* to the trade, and no amateur should be without so useful a work of reference.

Some few errors of punctuation, and here and there inverted phrases, exhibit omissions on the part of the "proof" reader, but these are comparatively trivial, and the author's ideas are readily followed by the attentive reader. We regret, however, that Mr. Edwards should have devoted any space to the vindication of himself from the attacks of an individual who has long ceased to have any claim to our consideration, and who has for years made himself notorious as being governed by a mind without discipline and passions without control. Such men can have no influence with an educated or intelligent mind, and should be wisely left to their merited oblivion.

GENERAL PRICE CURRENT OF KITCHEN GARDEN AND
FLOWER SEEDS, SOLD BY W. E. RENDLE & Co.,
PLYMOUTH.

CHARLES KNIGHT, in his *Pictorial London*, pleasantly illustrates the introduction of gas into that mighty metropolis. He resuscitates one of the "fathers of the city," of the previous century, and paints him spending his accustomed evening at one of the taverns in Fleet-street. As St. Dunstan's tolls forth the hour of nine, the careful citizen rises, pays his moderate reckoning, and carefully returning his purse to his pocket, buttons up his coat to depart, "for," says he, "the nights are dark, the streets lonely, the roads treacherous, the watchmen old and feeble, and lusty thieves lurk in every narrow lane and alley, to rob the late wayfarer of his means, or perhaps his life." So he steps forth, and the contrast rushes bewilderingly upon him. Light more dazzling than that of day is in his eyes, the shops are crowded, and the street filled with an immense throng, seemingly

utterly confused, but in reality most orderly. Broad pavements are raised on either side of the roadway, and the lanes, once the retreat of the cutpurse or footpad, may now be traversed in safety at all hours of the night or day. And this is the effect of the introduction of gas. Taking for the introduction of gas, the effect of garden literature, and for the "father of the city," the public of the last century, will not the trade catalogues of the present day quite as surprisingly illustrate the advance of horticulture? *Then*, there existed no literature for the ordinary gardening public, and but little for the professional man. *Now*, not only have we weekly and monthly serials, in addition to a host of books specially devoted to the garden, but our trade catalogues have assumed the dimensions of goodly volumes, with priced lists of fruit trees, ornamental shrubs, hardy and exotic plants, vegetable and flower seeds, all carefully classed and described, so that the inexperienced may not only make a judicious selection, but may learn further the culture needed, the time of sowing, the space required, the height when grown, and the time of flowering. *Rendle's Price Current* is a good example of these catalogues, and the "collections" made up for gardens of varying sizes, offer an excellent opportunity for all concerned to stock their gardens in the best manner, at a small cost. Some original articles, by Mr. Errington, and the calendar of operations, also convey most useful information, both to the amateur and practical man.

CALENDAR OF OPERATIONS, FOR MARCH.

[From *Rendle's Price Current and Garden Directory*.]

LET us hear no more about arrears; "a word and a blow" must now be the maxim. Everybody knows that all the world begins gardening in March; and although April counts more requirements, yet they are by no means of more importance. In this

month, the rapidly-increasing influence of solar light and heat, and the searching character of March winds, tend in the highest degree to produce that mellowness in the soil so desirable to the seed sower. The good gardener now watches the weather closely, in order to get his seeds in well. And now it is that the benefits of cultural operations of a prospective character, performed in November or December, will show forth the vast advantage of taking time by the forelock.

Dry intervening periods must now be seized with avidity, in order to break down or dig soils of a tenacious or fitful character. Let us here remind the reader of the great benefits accruing to light and chaffy soils, through the use of the roller, when dry. Gardeners are too apt to consider this only a field implement; the time is at hand, however, when the practice of the garden and the field will approximate in a higher degree than some imagine. Let all things requiring extra protection be attended to with a jealous eye; we are apt to have severe and unexpected visitations of not only low temperatures, but withering winds, during this month. March winds are proverbial; also March dust. Let us, therefore, remind our friends of seizing that mellowed condition of soil which March generally furnishes, to carry out operations.

TURNIPS.—Sow in a warm situation, after rain.

ANGELICA.—Sow in pans, in slight heat, for transplanting.

BORECOLE.—Sow the latter end of the month, for autumn. The Dwarf Curled and Cabbaging, or Hearting, are good sorts.

POTATOES.—Plant a few whole sets, of medium size. Apply water no oftener than is necessary to keep them in a healthy growing condition.

LEEKS, for full crops, sow.

BROAD BEANS.—Plant in succession, some of the best long-pods, such as Johnson's Wonderful.

RADISHES.—Continue to sow a few in warm situations, early in the month; the latter part, they had better be sown in the open beds. Wood's is perhaps the best for this season.

ASPARAGUS.—Mature and fork, taking care not to disturb the crowns. Take advantage of all favourable opportunities to stir and scarify the surface, as the growing season advances. Apply a little salt, in showery weather.

CARROTS.—Sow a few of the Early Horn.

HERBS.—Replant chervil, pot marjoram, thyme, camomile, and any others of the like nature.

CUCUMBERS AND MELONS.—Apply fresh linings, and keep up a good steady heat; give air by tilting; shut up early; young plants stop at first joint; sow for succession.

CARDOONS.—A good preparation must now be made for this excellent winter vegetable. Dig up any waste ground that it may be intended for, and well manure it, ready for sowing in May.

CAULIFLOWERS.—Sow a little seed in warm borders, in rich ground, and plant out in succession, from winter plants. Encourage their growth by the application of manure water.

CABBAGES.—Sow early sorts on warm borders, such as Atkin's Matchless, Shilling's Queen, and Rendle's Early; they are small compact-heading varieties, which come early into use, and are soon got off the ground. Sow Drumhead, for pigs and cattle, to transplant, in any vacant place. Encourage such as are already planted out, watering with liquid manure. Plant out Red Dutch, that has been sown in autumn.

CELERY.—Sow in pans, on a little heat. Such as are already up, transplant to gain strength, ready for the first crop.

ONIONS.—Sow for general crop, in good soil, about the middle of the month. We recommend the following;—Brown and White Spanish, Brown and White Globe, for the heaviest and most useful crop; Tripoli, for autumn sowing; and Silver-skinned, for pickling. The latter ought to be sown on poor soil.

BROCCOLI.—Sow the Early Cape varieties, Walcheren, &c., that plants may be at hand for cropping ground as it becomes vacant.

PEAS.—Sow for succession Fairbeard's Surprise, Bedman's Imperial, Blue Prussian; and in the latter part of the month, make a general sowing of the best marrows, Queen of England, Knight's Dwarf and Tall White and Green Marrows, Cormack's British Queen, and Hair's Knight's Marrow. The latter is very superior.

SAVOY for autumn. Sow Cattell's Green Curled, for the earliest, and Drumhead for the latest winter crop.

SPINACH.—Continue to sow, and where demand is great, sow fortnightly. A little of the New Zealand spinach (*Tetragonia expansa*), sown in heat, and transplanted about three feet apart, in good rich soil, will be found an excellent substitute, in hot weather.

LETTUCE.—Sow in open ground, perhaps with onions, for transplanting, some of the best varieties of cos. The following will be found useful:—Snow's Compact Cos, Bath Cos, Ady's Large Cos, White Cos; and amongst cabbage lettuces, Drumhead, Victoria, Grand Admiral, &c.

JERUSALEM ARTICHOKEs should be planted in the same manner as potatoes. They are tall-growing, and may be planted with advantage as a blind.

PARSLEY.—Sow on good soils. It makes a good and useful kitchen garden edging, and in such places it is more easily gathered.

SEA KALE AND RHUBARB.—Continue to force where it is wanted. The latter may be materially forwarded by inverting a pot over it. In preference to all other sorts, for earliness and flavour, are Prince Albert (Mitchell's) and Linnæus (Myatt's), and for late, Myatt's Victoria.

ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

♦ WHAT I THOUGHT.

It was a lovely morning, when, at an early hour, on the 8th of last August, I turned out to walk to the exhibition of the National Carnation and Picotee Society, appointed to be held in the arboretum, at Derby. Various circumstances had combined to create in my mind unusual interest in the exhibition then to be held, and during my long and lonely walk, I had ample time for cogitation. In the first place, I thought the exhibition would determine the propriety of offering prizes for a class of competitors, cultivators of a limited stock of plants. Secondly, knowing that the disfavour with which these, with other florists' flowers, had long been received by the *managers* of the Horticultural Society's great exhibitions, at Chiswick, had this season reached its climax in their total banishment from the list of prizes, I was anxious to know in how far the public would endorse this coldness. Thirdly, I wished to see how nearly, or how far off my Derby friends would come of my ideal of an effective and well-arranged exhibition. And fourthly and lastly, busy rumour had filled me with the expectation of seeing a larger collection of these magnificent flowers than usual, and a more than ordinary addition of new faces amongst them.

And so busily speculating, I wended on my way. As I entered the outskirts of the town, the clocks chimed six, and having earned a vigorous appetite by my walk, it was with no little satisfaction I sat down to a substantial breakfast, with a friend, after a hasty glance at his flowers, just then packed up for the all-important competition. And here, in a

parenthesis, I beg to warn all those who may deprecate the introduction of anything so material as a "substantial breakfast" into the relation of pleasures so purely appealing to the imagination as an exhibition of flowers, religiously to distrust every anticipation of pleasure which brings with it such eagerness as to unfit them for the enjoyment of *temperate refreshment*. Both in immaterial as in material enjoyments, he who would desire "good digestion" to "wait on appetite," and "health on both," must be free from all fever of the blood. To proceed: breakfast finished, I resumed my route to the arboretum, accompanied by my friend and his flowers. There, early as it was, we found a host of florists already assembled, and at a glance, I saw there would be no disappointment in the number of flowers brought forward, and a very short survey assured me there could be none as to their quality. Being early, and having long enjoyed the advantage of the *free list*, I was unstinted in my peepings, and I did not fail to use my privilege. And a capital study does such a scene afford for any who would know the requirements for a good florist,—the quick intelligent eye, the delicate skilful touch which is needed. From the unrivalled Turner to the eager tremulous tyro entering the arena of competition for the first time, he will have subjects for study of every grade of skill and intelligence, and almost every phase of character. Chatting, gossiping, busy amongst all, and all busy, the time rapidly passed by, and after notice from the secretary, staging was speedily completed. And now, when the large tent—eighty feet in length—was cleared of the busy multitude, the magnitude of the exhibition was first apparent. Divided into three sections, the judges went quietly to work, and as their decisions were completed, the business of arrangement followed. Meantime I jotted down my humble observations. Rapidly, however, as these arrangements proceeded, time flew faster, and some little while before all was

ready, a large crowd, after inspecting the other tents on the grounds, waited impatiently for admission. I had already collected matter to decide three of the four subjects I desired to resolve, as I shall presently relate, and now the fourth—the regard the public entertained for the productions of the florist—was to be decided. This, of course, could only be determined by comparison, and fortunately an opportunity of a very rare character was not wanting. Ten weeks previously, on the same spot, I had seen the same audience patiently submitting to a suffocating crush, in their eager desire to gaze upon a superb collection of orchids, sent from Chatsworth, and which were as novel as they were intrinsically beautiful. My test then was this,—that the audience should crowd as eagerly and as continuously around the “common” carnations as about the costly orchids, the difference being simply, that whereas the orchids were disposed in a small tent, the carnations occupied one of three times its size, consequently the crowd must be three times as numerous, or three times as eager, for the comparison to be equal. However it mattered not, for no sooner was admission granted than the whole tent was filled, and the one difficulty alone, from that time to the close of the exhibition, was to induce the crowd to “move on.” Well indeed it was (for my contentment, dear reader, however uninteresting it may seem to you) that I had completed my jottings, for otherwise I should have known little of the merits of the various exhibitions. And many good florists who had travelled scores of miles to look upon the flowers, thoroughly proved their right to a greater consideration than is now shown either to themselves or their productions, by these gardening autocrats, by quietly giving place to the crowd of ladies who thronged about the table, content to find their gratification in obliging others.

Passing over the remainder of the day, until, as the sun sank gloriously into the west, I was again on my road home, I will briefly relate the conclusions at which I arrived. In common fairness, I must, how-

ever premise, I am strongly opposed to the principle of splitting exhibitors into classes, beyond the very obvious ones, at important meetings, of dealers and private growers. But the facts I had collected demonstrated plainly, either that the number of blooms required in the collections should be reduced, or that the plan of making a second class should be continued. At York, the number of exhibitors was fifteen, at Derby twenty-six, distributed thus: six in the dealer's class, eight in the twelve blooms class for private growers, eleven in the six blooms class, and one for single specimens only; the increase, by a curious coincidence, being exactly the number of exhibitors in the six blooms class. And as the flowers were fully equal to those shown in the longer classes, there can, I think, be no question as to the conclusion I have stated above.

Of the effectiveness of the exhibition and its details, though I should be wanting in candour if I omitted to say it was open to improvement, yet I have little doubt that all those who were present will agree with me, that it was eminently in advance of many previous national exhibitions, whether of the tulip or carnation, which we have witnessed. For myself, I must declare, it has been with feelings of the deepest mortification I have seen from time to time such unaccountable outrages upon harmony committed, as unfortunately have been but too common in many of our exhibitions, otherwise most influential. But, unhappily, in such cases they must have been influential to prejudice and to fill the minds of observers with crude ideas and false inferences. For what but false impressions can be imparted by violations of good taste, such as are seen in rough uncovered tables, irregular in height and outline, here a mass of tall subjects crowded together to the utter destruction of their individual effect, there the whole space of a table ten feet in width occupied with cut flowers whose beauty would repay the closest criticism, and which, to be appreciated, should be exposed to it? Again, we have

seen foliage without flowers, and flowers unrelieved by foliage; and tables so high that the prominent objects have been, not the flowers, but the bottles in which were the flowers, or the pots or tubs in which were the plants, to say nothing of the rough tressels of the table itself. Such evils were avoided at Derby, the tables not being more than two feet in height, and covered to the ground with a dark green baize, kept thoroughly clean, so as to afford relief to the bright colours ranged upon it. In the centre of the wide table, where the eye could not reach to discriminate the minute beauties of a carnation, elevation and variety were obtained by the introduction of splendid specimens of fuchsias, *Humea elegans*, and other pendulous plants, the glare of colour from such a mass of flowers being again relieved and heightened by an admixture here and there of ferns and mosses, in themselves objects of the highest beauty and grace. I believe, however, far more effect would have been obtained, had there been less crowding of the individual specimens, and had there been a space of, say nine inches, left between the respective stands. The natural effect of the close proximity of such a number of specimens, was to impart to the whole an appearance of confusion, whilst from their non-isolation, all the effect to be obtained from the individual character of each stand was lost. I mention these things because I believe it is by a careful attention to exhibitions *as a whole*; that florists will win that high consideration so indubitably due to the beauty produced by their patient labour, and because it is especially inconsistent that men whose fastidious taste rejects as intolerable a barred picotee, or a tulip with an impure base, should be regardless of those details by which alone an effective and harmonious result can be obtained. At the same time, it is but justice to say, all that could be done to relieve this evil was done, by calling into use an additional table for the blooms in classes, and otherwise distributing many of the flowers. I was

also assured that the number of flowers contributed was largely in excess of the quantity expected, as notified to the secretaries.

Of the flowers and the new varieties exhibited my notice must be brief, for my "thoughts" have already run to an unconscionable length. Mr. Turner was, of course, the lion of the day. *Eight* of the twelve varieties exhibited in his stands of carnations were *new*, and *eleven* of the twelve picotees. Of the carnations all were fine. Four of them, viz., Morgan May, pink and purple bizarre, remarkably full of colour; King John, rose flake, extra fine and large, in the Flora's garland style; Exit, a superbly marked and large scarlet flake; and Defiance, also a superb scarlet flake, will I think excel everything in their respective classes. The only fear I have of the others is, as to their opening. Should they open readily in the midlands, as they do in the south, they will be most valuable. Of the picotees, Mrs. Headly, a noble medium-edged red, full, finely-formed, and showing plenty of the white ground, was my favourite. Sultana, Mrs. Hoyle, Mrs. Dodwell, and Prince Albert were also fine additions to the heavy red class; and Mrs. Kelke will make an equal sensation in the class for light-edges. Mrs. Drake, Lady Grenville, and Alice, three heavy roses, were very distinct in colour, smooth, and of the richest quality.

The whole of Mr. Turner's flowers were extra fine in growth and colour, and as it will be needless to say to any one who has once seen his productions, inimitably managed and set up. In his notice of the exhibition, at page 267 of the *Florist*, Mr. Turner says, had the exhibition been earlier, the flowers from the south would have been "larger." Whether this would have been the case or not, I must declare my conviction that a larger size was unneeded: in fact, my feeling at the time I looked over these stands was, that the blooms, from their large size, were unduly crowded, and certainly, unless the stands were enlarged, an increased size would aggravate this evil.

Mr. Keynes was a good second, but some of his flowers were dressed out flatter than I like to see. Mr. Schofield and Mr. Oswald also both produced some very neat specimens. Mr. Dodwell's flowers were not quite so large or so fine as a whole as I have seen him show. His No. 15 (since named Annot Lyle), 29 (since named Mrs. Bayley), and 48 were gems. The bloom of Mrs. Bayley was, I thought, equal to any flower shown, and 48 was an exquisitely fine light rose. Had it been a trifle more matured, it would in my opinion have placed Mrs. Barnard in the shade. Amongst his carnations, Mr. D. had a fine bloom of Holland's Mr. Ainsworth, S.B., which, grown by Mr. Turner, obtained the premier prize as the best carnation shown. It is a remarkably smooth, finely marked and formed flower, but will not ordinarily take precedence of old Curzon. Such at least is my opinion. Mr. Bayley's twelve carnations (first in the amateur's class) were clean and finely-grown specimens; and Mr. Steward's twelve picotees, first in their class, deserve the highest encomium. In fact, for uniformity, clearness, and general good growth, they could hardly be surpassed. Undoubtedly it was the best stand of picotees I have ever seen produced from the north, and for the qualities I have mentioned, I do not know how it could be improved. Had Mr. Steward's carnations equalled his picotees, he would doubtless have carried off the silver cup. I should be pleased to dilate upon the growth and varieties shown by other competitors in this class, but I know I have already reached the utmost limits you will be disposed to accord to me, and I fear I have sadly wearied my dear reader's patience. But just one word must be tolerated from me, in expression of my admiration of the six blooms of carnations shown by J. J. Colman, Esq., and the six blooms of picotees shown by Mr. John Fisher, each first in their respective classes. Good as the general growth in the six blooms class was, these were far in advance of their competitors, and were in every respect splendid examples of cultivation.

And now, in conclusion, having, my dear reader, as best I might, detailed to you my thoughts, will you, taking up any kindred subject, requite my labour and add to the general stock, by acquainting me with your reflections?

Z.

DEFINITION OF FEATHER AND FLAME IN TULIPS.

PERHAPS, Mr. Editor, an experience of forty years in the cultivation of the tulip, may be a sufficient warranty for my offering a definition, in reply to the inquiry of your correspondent, William John (see page 67), of what is strictly a feathered and what is strictly a flamed tulip. In the first place, as your correspondent says, a feathered flower has the markings confined to the edges of the petals, that is, when the flower is in fine character or condition; but it often happens that a feathered flower will be seen out of condition, with the colour disposed down the centre of the petal, to *one-half* or *three-quarters* of its length (called here a dip), as described by your correspondent, giving to the flower the appearance of an imperfect beam or flame; but such a flower, if placed at all, would, in the midlands, be treated as a feather, as I have above said, out of condition. It is impossible to say what would be the position of such a flower in the prize list, because such would depend upon a variety of circumstances, which might vary with every exhibition. And it appears to me, that it is of little consequence what is the place of flowers out of condition in the prize list.

Of the feathering, I may say there are two styles generally seen: the one exhibiting the appearance of a solid body of colour, called a *plated feather*; the other having the colour solid on the extreme edge of the petal only, and starting from thence in a number of fine minute lines or pencillings, alternating with the ground colour, to a greater or lesser depth,

according to the breadth of the feather, giving to it the appearance of a "feather," whence its name; and as this latter is by far the richest and rarest, it is proportionately prized.

Of flamed flowers I may also say there are two kinds, viz., a *flame* and a *feathered flame*; the latter being the one with plenty of *workmanship* about it, and the one we midlanders prize. A *feathered flame*, to be first-rate, should have a strong solid beam up the centre of the petal, with a number of clear distinct branches gracefully curving from the beam towards the edge, where it joins the feather; and as examples of this rich marking, I may instance fine specimens of Triomphe Royale, Everard, or Strong's King. These, when showing about an equal quantity of the ground colour and colouring matter, between the beam and the feather of the flower, as I have seen them, are the very acme of perfection, so far as marking is concerned.

Of the properties of tulips, the acceptance in the midlands is thus: purity first; form (*the Hardy standard*) second; marking third.

WM. PARKINSON.

Abbey-street, Derby, March, 1855.

SELECT ROSES.

BY MR. JOHN CRANSTON, KING'S ACRE NURSERIES, NEAR
HEREFORD.

AGREEABLY with your request, I furnish fifty of the best varieties of perpetual roses, for outdoor culture, which I consider the finest in cultivation.

Although we may with safety swell the collection to a far greater number, these are what every amateur, whether he grows for exhibitional or decorative purposes, should most certainly possess.

For exhibitional purposes, with two or three exceptions, they are the finest and most constant which are grown, and contain all the essential properties

desirable in a rose; yet, owing to the changeableness of many varieties in different, or in fact, the same season, there are many other kinds with occasionally equal merit, and with which I should be very reluctant to dispense, although by some thought not sufficiently distinct. But those who, throughout the season, are in the habit of cutting, two or three times a week, for exhibition, will at once be able to appreciate their use. At one time, perhaps we may have *La Reine* in good condition, and side by side, growing under the same treatment, *Auguste Mee*, a fine rose, with not a bloom fit for our stand; and probably in a week or two, the latter will be much the finer of the two. So also with *China Mrs. Bosanquet*, which, when well grown, and in a suitable season, is very good, with a fine waxy appearance, yet, last season, it did not produce at any one time that substance and thickness of petal necessary for a show rose; and the same may be said of scores of other varieties not included in this list.

I consider a free growth and fine habit so essential a property in a rose, that when choosing a selection for purchasers, I make this a most important point, and have done so, as far as practicable, in the present list. There are, however several kinds which do not possess this requisite, which yet we cannot dispense with. These I have marked throughout with an asterisk, and such should be grown as low standards or dwarfs.

After the very severe frost we have just experienced, and which has made such fearful havoc amongst our tea-scented and China roses, I have been very careful in recommending for outdoor culture from these two classes, and many very fine varieties, which were injured or destroyed, have been excluded, although, until this season, they have been grown as standards, or dwarf standards, *unprotected*, without receiving the least injury. Amongst these, were the following fine varieties, viz.:—*Tea: Bride of Abydos, Eliza Sauvage, Julie Mansais, Madame Bravy, Niphetos*, and the beautiful *Vicomtesse de Cazes*, which latter,

although with a bad habit and rather loose in the flower, is decidedly the best free-blooming yellow perpetual rose grown. To cultivate these out of doors, with any degree of safety, they should be grown in beds, upon their own roots, by which means they can be more effectually protected.

As I believe there has not been so severe a frost as in the present year since 1814, we may hope we shall not soon be visited by a similar one, and with this hope again renew the outdoor cultivation of this beautiful and highly fragrant class of roses.

It may be asked, as so many opinions are entertained upon the subject, in which way I consider dwarf roses to succeed best—upon their own roots, or when worked upon hardier stocks. As a general rule, although not without exceptions, plants of all **HARDY** kinds, when grown upon the dog rose, and some upon the manetti stocks, *in the deep stiff loamy soils* in which the rose so much delights, thrive much better, and with less care, than plants upon their own roots, with the greatest attention; but for very *dry sandy* soils, plants grown in the latter way, do perhaps better than when budded; although, if ever so well manured, they do not produce blooms equal to those grown upon other stocks, in a deep loam, with much less manure.

It must, therefore, be observed, where roses are preferred to be grown upon their own roots, the soil in the beds requires more careful attention and preparation than in the other case, and particularly for the delicate-growing Bourbon, China, and tea-scented varieties.

For pot culture, I prefer plants upon their own roots, in *all cases*, in preference to worked ones, upon any kind of stock.

FIFTY OF THE BEST PERPETUAL ROSES.

Those marked thus * are dwarf compact-growing varieties, which should only be grown as dwarfs or low standards.

DAMASK PERPETUAL.

**Mogador*.—Brilliant crimson, shaded with purple; a fine rose for a bed, and succeeds admirably upon the manetti stock.

HYBRID PERPETUAL.

Alexandrine Bachmeteff.—Deep brilliant rose; a very large flat-shaped good flower; habit very vigorous and fine.

Auguste Mee.—Glossy pink; large globular-shaped flower; habit vigorous and good.

Baronne Prevost.—Brilliant rose; very large and full, good shape, fine habit, and handsome foliage; one of the most constant and best roses for all purposes.

Baronne Hallez.—Dark red, sometimes deep crimson; very beautiful, and one of the most perfect-shaped roses grown; habit compact and good.

Caroline de Sansal.—Pale flesh; large, free-growing, and excellent.

Comte Odart.—Brilliant red; good standing colour, fine dark foliage, very free blooming and distinct; fragrant; habit good.

Duchess of Sutherland.—Bright glossy pink, changing to pale rose; a good and vigorous habit, and fragrant.

Géant des Batailles.—Brilliant crimson; large, full, and fine shape; most profuse bloomer, and highly fragrant. Although the finest rose grown, it has one fault,—in hot dry weather, its colour soon fades.

General Jacqueminot.—Brilliant scarlet crimson; colour glowing and superb, petal very thick and smooth, scarcely double enough; habit compact.

General Castellane.—Brilliant crimson; full and fine shape; profuse bloomer, and a beautiful rose; habit good.

Jules Margottin.—Brilliant glossy pink, a most beautiful, fresh, and good standing colour; habit vigorous and fine, very fragrant, one of the best new roses.

La Reine.—Brilliant glossy rose; habit good; a superb large glossy kind.

Leon des Combats.—Dark purplish crimson; when first opened, colour dense and glowing; very large and full, but a little coarse; robust habit.

**Louis Peronney*.—Glossy rose; large and thick petal, long egg-shaped buds, exquisitely beautiful; unfortunately a little tender, and rather bad habit.

Mrs. Rivers.—Pale satin, or flesh; the petals, as they open, beautifully folded; a most superb free-growing and distinct kind.

Paul Dupuy.—Deep crimson, slightly mottled with velvety crimson; very full, habit moderate.

Prince Leon.—Deep crimson; a very fine thick petal, and a good rose.

**Reine Mathilde*.—Fresh glossy pink; beautiful colour, very large and full, habit compact.

Souvenir de Leveson Gower.—Brilliant deep red; very large, full, and good shape; highly fragrant, vigorous habit, a most superb rose.

Triomphe de Paris.—Dark purplish red; very large and full; a good-growing, handsome, and distinct kind.

William Griffiths.—Glossy pink, changing to light satin rose; petals curiously turned; a very beautiful free-growing kind.

BOURBON.

Adelaide Bougère.—Dark velvety purple, changing to a peculiar bluish slate; very distinct and beautiful; habit good.

Acidalie.—White, the outer petals, in dry weather, beautifully tinted; fine shape and vigorous habit; the best white Bourbon.

**Aurore de Guide*.—Light crimson and violet; a most superb autumnal variety, with handsome foliage; habit compact.

**Dupetit Thouars*.—Violet crimson; very large and full; a most superb free-blooming rose, with dwarf habit.

Docteur Leprestre.—Deep vivid crimson; finely shaped and full, a superb rose, habit dwarf.

Jaustine.—Brilliant pink; large and full, a beautiful autumnal variety, habit moderate.

Queen.—Fawn and rose; a most desirable kind for standard or dwarf, which blooms abundantly throughout the season.

**Souvenir de Dumont d'Urville*.—Bright cherry; large and full, petal smooth and of good substance, a first-rate kind, habit rather dwarf.

Souvenir de la Malmaison.—Blush, centre clear flesh; handsome foliage and good habit; one of the largest and best roses grown, adapted alike for all purposes.

**Souvenir de L'Arquebuse*.—Violet crimson and purple; very free-blooming, distinct, and beautiful; habit dwarf.

Sir Joseph Paxton.—Bright rose; large and full; a very good constant free-blooming kind, with handsome foliage and robust habit.

Vicomte de Cassy.—Bright carmine rose; large and full, forms a handsome standard.

**Vorace*.—Dark crimson purple; very large and full, habit compact, an excellent kind.

CHINA.

**Fabvier*.—Brilliant glowing crimson; not full enough for a show rose, but very attractive; a most profuse bloomer, and forms a fine bed.

Madame Bréon.—Brilliant rose; large fine shape, habit dwarf, but one of the best China roses.

Mrs. Bosanquet.—Pale flesh, with a waxlike appearance; double, free-blooming, and beautiful.

TEA-SCENTED.

**Adam*.—Flesh, centre salmon and fawn; very beautiful; one of the largest, best, and most fragrant of the teas.

**Comte de Paris*.—Pale flesh; very large and very full; a hardy and superb show rose, habit dwarf.

Devoniensis.—Creamy white, centre sometimes blush; highly fragrant; a most superb hardy rose, and one of the best of the tea-scented.

Goubalt.—Salmon pink; highly fragrant, and beautiful in the bud, but afterwards a little loose.

Gloire de Dijon.—Pale yellow, with orange centre; very large and double, handsome foliage, a most superb new rose.

**Josephine Malton*.—Creamy white; very large fine petal, a most beautiful and fragrant kind.

Madame Willermorz.—Creamy white, centre tinted with fawn; very thick petal, and finely shaped; a superb variety, with large and handsome foliage.

Maréchal Bugeaud.—Bright copperish rose; very large and full, a very hardy and excellent kind.

Narcisse.—Fine pale yellow; habit of a noisette, a beautiful abundant-blooming and hardy kind.

Safrano.—Bright apricot, fine dark purple foliage; hardy, and the most beautiful of all roses in the bud.

Souvenir d'un Ami.—Salmon and rose; very large and very full, handsome foliage, a superb rose.

NOISETTE.

Solfaterre.—Fine sulphur yellow; superb, large, and full; a very fine weeping, pillar, or wall rose; requires a little protection.

TWELVE OF THE BEST PERPETUAL PILLAR ROSES.

These I consider best grown upon their own roots, or budded upon the mauetti stock. The latter I prefer for the greater portion.

PERPETUAL MOSS.

General Drouot.

HYBRID PERPETUAL.

Alexandrine Bachmeteff.

Auguste Mee.

Baronne Prevost.

Duchess of Sutherland.

Souvenir de Leveson Gower.

BOURBON.

Acidalie.

Bouquet des Flore.

Louis Odier.

Pierre de St. Cyr.

Sir Joseph Paxton.

NOISETTE.

Fellenboug.

SIX OF THE BEST CLIMBING ROSES,

FOR A SOUTH OR EAST WALL.

BOURBON.

Acidalie.

Bouquet des Flore.

Pierre de St. Cyr.

NOISETTE.

Cloth of Gold.

Solfaterre.

Lamarque.

TWELVE OF THE BEST SUMMER-BLOOMING ROSES, FOR EXHIBITIONAL PURPOSES.

HYBRID PROVENÇE.
Princess Clementine.—Paper
white.

MOSS.
Crested.—Rosy pink.
Laneii.—Brilliant rose.
White Bath.—Best white moss.

FRENCH.
Boule de Nanteuil.—Crimson
purple.
Kean.—Velvety crimson.

Latour d'Auvergne.—Brilliant
rose.

Napoleon.—Bright rose.

HYBRID BOURBON.
Coupe d'Hebe.—Fresh rose.
Paul Ricaut.—Brilliant crim-
son.

ALBA.
La Seduisante.—Rosy blush.

DAMASK.
Madame Zoutman.—Creamy
white.

BEDS AND BEDDING PLANTS.

“BEING well prepared is half the battle.” I think nothing can have more clearly shown that such a saying is not very far from the truth, than the deplorable state of our brave army in the east, and the miserable way in which it has dwindled down to so small a number, owing, chiefly, if not altogether, to the *want* of being prepared with a sufficiency of warm clothing and shelter. Now, if we are to expect a fine display in our flower gardens, during the summer and autumn months, we must have our beds *well prepared*, and also a sufficient stock of good plants to plant them with. If the beds have been frequently and deeply forked over, so much the better; but if not, they should be attended to as soon as the soil is in a workable state. Most of them will require a dressing of thoroughly decomposed manure, or leaf mould; but this will be better applied just before planting time, when it may be dug or forked in a few inches deep only. The object of keeping the dressing near the surface, is to induce a quick and strong growth, until the beds are nearly covered; the roots, by that time, will have got down

to the poorer soil, and a greater profusion of flowers will be the result.

If there be any deficiency in the stock of plants, let it be made up with the least possible delay. Place the old stock plants of such kinds as are wanting, in a warm situation, such as a good sweet hotbed, and an abundance of cuttings will be furnished in a short time. It will be well to have in readiness a heap of finely-sifted sandy soil, in a moderately dry state, and a number of clean five-inch pots, prepared by half filling them with potsherds, over which place a little rough soil, such as would not pass through the riddle; fill up to within an inch of the top with the fine soil, then finish with some clean sharp sand. When filled, set the pots quite level, and give them a gentle watering, with a fine rose pot or syringe: they will then be ready to receive the cuttings. As soon as cuttings can be obtained, let them be immediately got in, gently watered with a fine rose pot, to settle the sand about them, and plunged in a bottom heat of about eighty degrees. If such things as verbenas, lobelias, &c. can be covered with a bell-glass, they will strike sooner and with more certainty. All the varieties of scarlet geraniums need not be glassed. Pot off in small pots as soon as rooted, and let them be returned to a close frame for a few days. I may just observe, that those plants not at work to produce cuttings may be set in the full light, and freely exposed to air, whenever the weather is favourable. By thus gradually hardening them off, they will be ready to plant out at least a fortnight earlier than the young stock now in course of propagation.

Very few, if any, of our bedding plants are so useful or so popular as the scarlet geranium. The following are a few of the best varieties:—*Tom Thumb*, a good old sort, especially for planting in elevated beds, or vases, or indeed any place much exposed to wind. *Punch* is a stronger-growing variety, and suitable for a large bed. *Amazon* is a still taller

grower: a few plants put in amongst hardy heaths, or any low-growing evergreen shrubs, have a good effect. *Baron Hugel* is a dwarf kind, with bright scarlet flowers and horseshoe leaf, well adapted for a small bed, or an edging to a large one. *Princess Royal*, *Defiance*, *Dazzle*, *Reedi*, and *Queen of England*, are sorts very highly spoken of. *Mangles' Variegated* is excellent as an edging to a bed of *Tom Thumb*; or it makes a most beautiful bed when mixed with *Beauty Supreme* verbena. *Flower of the Day* is a much stronger grower, and should have poor soil, or be plunged in the pots. With a good band of verbena *Defiance*, it makes a pretty bed, *Mountain of Light* is a fine sort, but with me it does not grow freely enough. The *White* and *Pink-flowered Ivy-leaved* will be found useful for rustic baskets and edgings of small beds. *Purple Unique* makes a fine bed, when edged with *Mangles' Variegated*, but should be plunged in pots.

The verbena is little less popular than the scarlet geranium, and certainly no less useful for the flower garden. The following are some of the best older varieties, for bedding purposes:—*Defiance* (Robinson), best scarlet. *Brilliant*, cerise, yellow eye. *Captivation*, scarlet, yellow eye. *Chauverii*, crimson scarlet, dark eye. *White Perfection*. *Andre*, blue; a good trusser. *Beauty Supreme*, pink or rose. *Madame Legras*, purple and white striped. *Mrs. Mills*, blue, with white eye, *St. Margaret*, carmine. *Danecroft Beauty*, light salmon, with large yellowish eye. *Emma*, purple. *Duchess of Kent*, white, rose centre. *Jean Bart*, bright rose, crimson centre. *National*, rosy red, white eye.

A few of the best calceolarias for bedding are, *Frostii*, yellow. *Sulphurea elegans*, yellow, a dwarf-growing variety. *Golden Chain*, golden yellow, good habit. *Superb* (Turner), fine dark crimson, one of the best for bedding. *Amplexicaulis*, pale lemon. *Kentish Hero*, yellow and red.

Lobelia ramosoides is the best of the small blue

kinds. *L. compacta alba* is a pretty little white sort *Heliotropium corymbosum* is fine. The dark variety of *Double American Groundsel* is the best. Of petunias, *Crimson King*, *Shrubland Pet* (white), and *Shrubland Rose* are the best I have seen. *Ageratum Mexicanum*, fine, for a large bed. The *Variegated Alyssum* will be found very useful. *Phlox Drummondii*, half hardy annual, makes a very pretty bed; as does also *Saponaria Calabrica*.

In another paper, I shall give my ideas upon grouping the flowers.

J. BAYLEY.

Derby.

GOSSIP.

AMONGST those light topics of current information recognized under this title, it will be interesting to the cultivators of the dahlia to learn that Mr. Sainsbury's flowers are no longer to come out in the name of Mr. Drummond. Mr. Sainsbury is well known as the raiser of Beeswing, Bob, Duke of Wellington, Sir R. Whittington, Susan, &c. Another *on dit* of the dahlia world is, that the celebrated yellow, Bessie, has gone to the Royal Nursery, Slough, not to be issued, as we are informed, before 1856.

In the tulip world, all eyes are of course turned upon the proceedings for the coming exhibition of the National, now graced with the further title of "Royal," in virtue of Her Most Gracious Majesty's patronage. We expect to give particulars of the day, the list of prizes, &c. in another page of our number, but in the meantime, we have most hearty pleasure in giving publicity to an invitation most kindly sent to us by Mr. Headley, of Stapleford, who writes, "I hope you will visit me at the coming show, and see my seedlings, which I flatter myself are unique; and please say to any of your tulip growers who may attend the show at Cambridge, and who

may not think five miles too far to travel to look at my collection of tulips, nearly all of which are of my own raising, that they shall be most heartily welcomed by me." We shall be truly gratified if our engagements admit of our reaping this enjoyment, and we are sure that all who may avail themselves of Mr. Headley's liberality, will have a treat of the highest order. Mr. Headley further writes, "I am happy in saying my tulips are *all* right this season, a circumstance that has not happened for nineteen years previously. I have invariably lost some of my bulbs, in some cases, as many as thirty or forty rows having been destroyed at one end of the bed, whilst the other has been quite safe. Yet the soil has been quite pure; *no particle of manure* ever having been used in it, and the soil is as well adapted for tulips as any in the world. You may depend upon it the destruction of tulips which has taken place in your neighbourhood, has been from the act of some malicious scoundrel. Tulips are perfectly hardy. Wet will not kill them. Frost, however severe, does not kill them. Deep planting, fleet planting, heavy soil or light soil; in fact, except by some deleterious agent, you cannot kill them."

A further subject of interest to the tulip world, and of personal concern to ourselves, is the coming sale of the fine collection of our friend, Mr. Edwards, so well known as of Wace Cottage, Holloway, the grounds and gardens of which have at last succumbed to the advance of the huge metropolis: and Mr. Edwards failing immediately to find an "eligible investment," within a reasonable distance of St. Paul's, has to lose the results of his years of careful *selection*. From personal knowledge, we can say the collection contains almost all the show flowers extant, both of the north, the south, or of the midland counties, and of the *finest strains*. Mr. Edwards is widely known for the zeal which has marked his course as a florist, and no expense was a barrier to his attainment of an extra fine break; in fact, we know upwards of one

thousand guineas were expended in their collection. The sale will offer a rare opportunity to all desiring to add sterling varieties to their collections.

In the north, our friends of the Northern Counties Carnation and Picotee Society are proceeding very satisfactorily. A correspondent writes, "I have agitated the subject of unrestricted class showing pretty freely, amongst our subscribers; at the meeting, at Halifax, I put the question to the vote, but I am sorry to say I was in a decided minority. Old prejudices are difficult to shake. We did, however, make some progress, having determined for the future to show our pan flowers upon cards; the winning flowers in the classes likewise are to be carded, but these latter have to be judged first. The remaining flowers upon the table to remain 'as you were,' the more conspicuous objects being the ginger beer bottles,—anything but ornamental. Still I am glad we have advanced a little. Another year, I hope we may get on a step farther, and do away with our present system of class showing. At present, he is the largest winner who produces the greatest number of varieties; quality is a secondary consideration. The result is, the same variety is sure to be found competing under more than one name. It is said the judges should prevent this, but you well know the difficulty, so I say the sooner the system is done away with the better. It is a great clog upon floriculture." We consider the resolution adopted of showing the collections upon cards, and carding up the winning flowers in the classes, will decide the question of cards or no cards, in the north; for we feel confident that when once the northern public has observed the superiority in appearance obtained by the use of the card, they will not again tolerate an exhibition without these accessories to effect.

Another season will, we anticipate, also bring a change in the present mode of showing single flowers. One of the judges writing to us with reference to the last show of the Northern Counties, says, "I don't

like the plan of placing a variety once only in the class. It brings in many very bad flowers." Our opinion is, that our friends in the north carry the system of exhibiting single specimens to a great excess. Speaking for ourselves, it seems to us, there are two things florists should strive to secure, viz., first, a greater excellence in their flowers; and secondly, a more lively interest in the minds of the general public. Both of these objects will be best effected by well-conducted exhibitions. Exhibitions of single blooms can, however, never be made so effective as well arranged collections, and consequently, in our opinion, single bloom showing should always be subsidiary. Offer prizes for a large number of small collections of *dissimilar* flowers, such as a grower of seventy or one hundred pairs may compete for with a probability of success, and not only would growth and *variety* (the one thing now sought, but not secured,) be obtained, but arrangement, in course of time, might be expected to follow. Then as a test for anything *new*, let single bloom showing have its legitimate use. Whilst the present mode obtains, at least it should be stated in the schedule, that the prizes can only be awarded to *dissimilar* blooms.

EXTRACTS, HINTS, AND RECOLLECTIONS.



THE PHILOSOPHY OF FLORISTS' FLOWERS,

[Reprinted from the *Florist* for 1849]

No. I.

[By the kind permission of our friends, the conductors of the *Florist*, we are enabled to lay before our readers a republication of these masterly essays, and we do so with no ordinary feelings of satisfaction.

We commend them heartily to our friends, and we hope that every reader will give them not merely a careful perusal, but an attentive study. In them he will be furnished, not only with a reply to those who ridicule the florist for his attempts to develop the beautiful in flowers, but he will also find a clear and masterly exposition of those principles on which beauty in flowers depend, and he will thus be furnished with an easy rule for determining the value of those dogmas put forth by men utterly ignorant of first principles, and which have had, from time to time, only too much attention in the floral world.—ED.]

WHEN you said that you had a smile excited by seeing the worst pelargoniums in your collection the most admired, you only spoke the experience of all who have a collection of any florists' flowers; to whom it is a common mortification, when exhibiting the objects of their care to casual observers, to have the most perfect kinds passed by without notice, even when attention is called to them, while the defective are singled out for approbation. This well-known fact is often appealed to as a proof of the intrinsic unsoundness of the florist's standards of preference, and of the uselessness of his labours; in fact, that all is mere whim and caprice.

There is also another difference between the cultivator and the public, somewhat more specious as a matter of reproach against us, and often triumphantly adduced, as decisive of the advantages possessed by the uninitiated over the initiated,—that a simple admirer of nature will look with pleasure upon a primrose or a pansy, from which the connoisseur would turn with disgust. It is thence argued that our science is *worse* than useless.

Nor is this treatment of our pursuit confined to those who, being ignorant themselves, would fain plead for "ignorance as bliss." The really scientific and kindred botanist (he must excuse us for claiming the relationship of a younger brother) misappreciates

our labours, and holds them in greater abhorrence than the most resolute upholder of the "natural system" of vandyked pinks and carnations. He calls our double flowers *monsters*, and our varieties *hybrids*. Perhaps it may be new to some of your readers that the meaning of that latter word is, "offspring of violence done to nature." And as we, in the simplicity of our ignorance, or the consciousness of our rectitude, have adopted his term of reproach as a convenient one to express a factitious variety obtained by crossing the seed, it will remain as a standing testimony of the opinion botanists had of the practice. And it is a fact that, as a class, they still despise the whole system of fancy flowers, and even carry their prejudices so far as to *dislike* the beauties that have been obtained by art.

Here, then, are three formidable classes of opponents, to one or other of which I think all the objections I have heard raised to the art of the florist may be referred. And as my object, in these papers, is to show that they are all and severally untenable, it appears better to meet them and join issue at once; after which I will endeavour to demonstrate and apply those fixed laws of nature, through which have been developed whatever advances have yet been, or will hereafter be made in the improvement of certain flowering plants.

1. The first objection is, that what are counted excellences in the eyes of amateurs are mere matters of taste and caprice; that the standards by which they are judged are purely arbitrary and conventional; and that no sufficient reason can be given why any other standards might not as well be adopted as those in use, because taste is most variable and inconsistent.

Persons who thus reason should be reminded that the general amount of consent among those who have eagaged in the pursuit and paid attention to it,—and those not of one time or one place, or among those only who were influenced by each other's opinions, but of all times and of various countries, and often

bearing no respect towards one another,—should suggest a doubt whether facts are not against them. The truth is, it is a curious matter of inquiry, and one of those which led the writer to think upon the subject, how *much* the facts of the case are against them, and tend the other way; how constant it is that frequent and attentive examination of many varieties of the same species of flower almost in every instance leads the cultivator to value certain peculiarities, whether pointed out to him or not, which constitute the *properties* of that species of flower.

Not that each would prefer the same variety; that would imply that there is no place for taste at all, for which I shall show that there is a wide, but not an unlimited, field. But that in all the varieties that each most esteems, there will be found certain characteristic points of excellence. This suggests what will be proved to be a fact, that for such agreement there is *a reason founded in nature*; a reason we will afterwards investigate. In the meantime, the mere intimation it gives, that these preferences are not arbitrary, is a sufficient answer to the objection as it is usually made.

The same appearance of mere arbitrary standards of excellence is found in many, perhaps in most, other objects of pursuit. An ordinary person going among the stock of a farmer who breeds high, would in all probability make the same mistake that you complained of in one ignorant of pelargoniums, and excite a smile of pity or contempt through his unacquaintance with the technical value of level backs, flat loins, wide forelegs, and straight sides, or by showing so much want of discernment as actually to praise a good-looking animal with a black nose; a fault as inexcusable in a cow, and as surely indicative of defective breeding, as the same appearance would be at the bottom of the cup of a tulip.

Now these marks are not arbitrary; no one supposes them to be so in cattle; credit is given to the farmer that he has a reason founded in nature for the

points of his beast, though that reason does not lie on the surface, to be discerned by every passing beholder. They are admitted to be what they are,—an index of its qualifications to fulfil its destined functions.

The same thing occurs in judging between the relative values of different specimens of the same kind, in all articles, whether natural productions or works of art. There are always some technical marks to judge by, which serve to indicate, in short compass, the intrinsic qualities of the article. And these marks will seem arbitrary to those who do not understand them, because their connexion with the qualities is not seen. The merchant judges of samples by marks that are meaningless to others, but which lead him to a correct result, because they have a real natural connexion with the qualities he seeks. And the florist has an equal reason for the properties of his flower. A novice will sometimes bring a seedling polyanthus to an older cultivator, expecting the same admiration it has excited in himself. In size, shape, and colour, and edging, it is perfect; and he is surprised and mortified at the coldness of its reception. And when told why it must be rejected, he considers the floristic canon as arbitrary and unreasonable, which condemns an otherwise excellent flower for the trifling defect, if defect it is to be called at all, that the stigma is visible. Yet condemned it would be, and universally, by judges; and they are right, as will be shown in its place. A *pin-eyed* polyanthus or auricula has no business in a collection, though not out of place in a border.

There is no caprice in this. And the real agreement that has obtained all along, from the first, among florists, in their estimate of fancy flowers, is greater than is at first discoverable; because they did not set out from a known system, acknowledged by all, or by any, and therefore their differences of taste were greatest at first, and diminish continually afterwards. No such system was then thought of, or

supposed to exist, but each endeavoured to improve his chosen flower in his own way. But, after their labours have, in a course of years, slowly collected various and tangible results, we can see that those results have been reached by successive steps, all in the same direction. The tulip—which has perhaps been cultivated longest as a fancy flower, and which, as the gaudiest of them, is peculiarly likely to dazzle even the experienced into mistakes of its true properties—has undergone several apparent revolutions of opinion about its standard points. We have now, however, no difficulty in following the successive advances it has made, and discovering that there was no capriciousness, nor any other general alteration of taste than what arose from a general onward progress.

It may be true, that some old varieties exist in most fancy flowers, which have seldom been surpassed since; but at the time of their first appearance, they were not, as they are expected to be now, the types of the whole bed. And when it is thence inferred that many have been discarded to make room for others no better, or perhaps worse, than themselves, it is not indeed denied that such mistakes may have happened; but from some researches made on the subject, I am inclined to believe they have been comparatively rare. And there is one reason for novelty, not generally known, except to experienced florists (though popularly acknowledged in fruits), that highly-cultivated varieties soon wear themselves out and degenerate. Pinks rarely retain their character through more than from ten to fifteen generations of cuttings; and therefore new ones must be continually superseding the old, even though little, if anything, superior to those they displace.

And as for a person unaccustomed to any species of flower making a wrong selection for his approval, it happens in everything else as well as in flowers, and therefore loses its force. Lace, for instance, is made for the same purpose that the flower was created,—to please the eye; and an unpractised eye

would be as apt to pass by the rare and costly, and select the valueless, in lace, as in a pelargonium. The fact is ever found to be, that the most showy qualities are not the most useful ; nor is that which will most permanently please, that which first catches the unaccustomed eye. But that which is sterling, which will attract without fatiguing the sight, and gratify without offending the judgment, will often be passed over at first without notice. And therefore it is no more a reproach to the study which investigates these facts, or to the art which is founded upon them, that the eye of a novice should make a choice, which the same eye, when tutored by experience, would reject, than it is an argument against a more cultivated taste in diet, that a child prefers green fruit to ripe, and leaves wholesome food for gingerbread.

IOTA.

[To be continued.]

THE FLUKE KIDNEY POTATO.—Thinking it may prove interesting to some of the readers of the *Midland Florist*, I send you a few particulars of this excellent variety. It was raised by John Turner, a hand-loom weaver, and occasionally a farm labourer, of Birch, near Middleton, Lancashire, from a seed apple, or crab, taken indiscriminately from a field of potatoes, on the Langley Hall Farm, and near his residence, in 1841. He sowed the seed in his own small garden, and it produced twelve plants, one of which was the Fluke; the others being of little value, they were thrown away. He grew the Fluke several years, and occasionally made presents of tubers to his friends—amongst others, to a neighbouring farmer, who has sold large quantities of them; but Turner himself never made a farthing by them, in the way of trade. In 1852, a subscription was got up for him, chiefly through the exertions of Oswald Dickin, Esq., surgeon, of Middleton, and Mr. John Lancashire,

farmer, of Little Heaton, to which the Earl of Derby subscribed ten pounds, and the Earl of Wilton five pounds. The amount raised was one hundred and fifteen pounds, with which a small life annuity was purchased for him; but this he only enjoyed a very short time, as he died on the 28th of February, 1854, aged seventy-two years. As before stated, Turner never knew from what variety he took the seed crab; but at the time the seed was taken, the proprietor of the Langley Hall Farm was growing the Pink-eye, and to this variety the Fluke has some resemblance, especially in the eye. Enough has been said as to its culture, which is in nowise different from that of other varieties, and I would only add—*give it plenty of room*; plant “whole” sets, in drills, twenty-two inches wide, and twelve, fifteen, or eighteen inches from set to set; the larger the sets, of course, the wider apart. I may add, that some excellent seedling potatoes have been raised by a Mr. John Aldred, of Pendleton, near Manchester—amongst them, one which he calls the “Sole.” This variety is something in the way of the Fluke, but is rather rounder; but the best is one called the “Lancashire Lad,” a late red-skinned round variety, and which, I doubt not, will be highly prized as a late keeping potato.—JOHN HOLLAND, *Bradshaw Gardens, Middleton near Manchester.*

INFLUENCE OF FLOWER SHOWS.—The monotony of domestic life requires some relief, and what better can it have than the delightful *fresco* of a well got up flower show? Beauty feels at home there, surrounded by the beautiful; high principles of taste are acquired imperceptibly, by mixing with the perfect forms of the vegetable kingdom; and delicacy of sentiment is learned by studying more closely the beauties of plants and their delightful poetical associations. Every mind may be bettered, none injured by such amusements, and this good alone is sufficient to make such exhibitions desirable; but

there is also another and important benefit conferred by them,—that is, the encouragement of a large and intelligent part of the community,—we mean the private and nursery gardeners.

PRUNING CURRANTS AND GOOSEBERRIES.—The pruning of currant and gooseberry bushes is seldom performed in cottage gardens, the consequence of which is that every bush in time becomes a mass of wood, producing a quantity of worthless fruit, without either size or flavour. This is to be easily remedied by a little attention to pruning the bushes in winter, and never allowing the branches to be too crowded, or to interfere with one another. The shoots which spring up in the centre should be cut away very closely, as well as the small shoots on the main branches, leaving only one at their points, which must be shortened for about a third of its length. If this is done, the bush will have the form of a cup, with the branches ranged regularly round the stem. Red and white currants require the same treatment, as they produce their fruit on spurs, in the way of the gooseberry. The black currant must be managed differently, as it bears chiefly on the shoots of the preceding year; instead, therefore, of spurring and otherwise shortening the branches, all that is necessary is to thin them, and keep the bushes compact.

QUERIES AND ANSWERS.



CARNATIONS AND PICOTEES.—As potting time is just approaching, I wish you would give me, as well as the public, your opinion on the *morale* of potting. It is strongly advocated by many (Hogg amongst the number), that very small pots should be used; and that to have the blooms fully developed, the plants should of necessity have *well hold* of the pot side. Will this theory hold good? JOHN CAWTHORN.

We cannot better reply to our correspondent's inquiry, than by quoting from a paper by Z., which appeared in the *Florist*

for 1853. "There are two or three radical rules in the cultivation of these flowers, which I am convinced are not yet half understood. In establishments in the midland counties, and among the florists of the north, I have seen them plant for blooming a pair of diminutive plants, in a pot twenty inches across; and for wintering, I have seen the same pair, or in many cases a solitary plant, in five and six-inch pots. The result of this procedure is, that the plants are surrounded through the period most critical in their existence by soil more or less sour and stagnant, and the inevitable consequence, from its enforced feeding on crude material, and an almost total absence of fresh invigorating air,—the sweet breath of heaven,—is an unhealthy debilitated growth; a severe prostration of its vital powers; in many cases, a thorough disorganisation of its general functions, and—death. Sap stored up in such circumstances can but produce miserable, diminutive, malformed flowers; and it is not in the least surprising that, after a few experiments of a like nature, such cultivators give up the flower in disgust, despairing of ever attaining a successful issue. Radical rule No. 1 requires *the plant to be completely rested throughout the winter*; and to obtain a fine bloom, radical rule No. 2 requires *the growth to be matured*. Both of these conditions are incompatible with the circumstances I have described, and hence the failure. Rest to the plant in winter is almost impossible so long as it is surrounded by a mass of dead soil (dead because unoccupied and vivified by the plant), subject to every and the most extreme alternations of heat and cold, drought and moisture,—now curdling the current of its life with cold, and now exciting it anew to gorge to repletion. Again, maturity of growth is inconsistent with the existence of a body of unoccupied and highly-exciting soil. As well might we expect fine sugary fruits from the gross growth of our apple, or pear, or plum trees, as fine blossoms from plants subject to such conditions. In truth, both are amenable to the same law, and it cannot be violated with impunity. Does the pelargonium or the fuchsia produce a fine and abundant head of bloom with the pot half filled with roots? Certainly they do not; and quite as certainly the carnation will not. As a rule, the plant should be placed for the winter in such a sized pot only as it can comfortably occupy with root before the fogs of late autumn fall upon us, such indeed as will admit the plant to feel the sides freely, which will at first gently check its growth; and secondly, secure a thorough drainage. Let no one, however, suppose from this, that the pot must be filled and bound with roots. That would be avoiding Scylla to be wrecked upon Charybdis. The sides of the pot should be freely felt by the root, and no more. And so for the bloom: the growth must be matured before

the bloom can be fine, and the growth will not mature before the whole of the soil be permeated with root. Choose, therefore, a pot of such a size as will produce this result; and rarely is it that a size exceeding ten inches is required. The best and most successful cultivators, indeed, occupy this with three, and sometimes (when small and weakly) four plants."

BEST TWENTY-FOUR PINKS, AND BEST THIRTY-SIX PANSIES.

—I. B.—T.—Mr. Charles Turner, of the Royal Nursery, Slough, has kindly favoured us with the following. It is needless to say we cannot give a higher authority.

PINKS.—*Adonis* (Maclean), rose, changing to rosy purple.

Beauty of Salthill (Turner), reddish purple.

Brunette (Maclean), very dark, fine petal and distinct.

Criterion (Maclean), purple.

Colchester Cardinal (Norman), purple.

Duke of Devonshire (Turner), rose, large and full.

Esther (Turner), rose.

Field Marshal (Hale), rose, constant and well formed.

Henry Ward (Turner), purple.

Harry (Turner), dark purple.

James Hogg (Bragg), fine dark.

John Stevens (Looker), purple, stout petal.

Jupiter (Bragg), purple.

Lola Montes (Costar), purple.

Lord Charles Wellesley (Bragg), rosy purple.

Mrs. Maclean (Maclean), lilac rose.

Mr. Hoyle (Looker), red, very constant.

Mr. Hobbs (Looker), rosy purple.

Mr. Weedon (Hale) purple, smooth stout petal.

New Criterion (Maclean), red, changing to purple, very fine.

Purity (Turner), rose, small, fine quality.

Richard Andrews (Turner), rosy purple, a fine show flower, very smooth.

Richard Smith, Esq. (Looker), purple.

Sarah (Turner), dark, full, without being confused.

Sir Joseph Paxton (Bragg), rosy purple.

PANSIES.—*Alba Magna* (Thomson), fine white self.

Brilliant (Turner), yellow ground, bronze top petals and margin.

Comet (Turner), deep yellow ground, with broad margin of reddish crimson.

Duchess of Sutherland (Turner), white ground, violet purple margin, large eye, very fine.

Duke of Newcastle (Turner), yellow ground, purple margin, large dark eye, smooth, and good shape, fine.

Earl Mansfield (Dickson), white ground, broad purple margin, small eye, smooth, large, and striking.

- Egeon* (Turner), deep yellow ground, violet purple broad margin, smooth, and fine form.
- Emperor* (Hales), rich yellow ground, top petals and margin deep marone, extra fine.
- Father Gavazzi* (Holland) rich yellow ground, with broad margin of crimson purple, and large prominent eye; a large and striking flower.
- France Cycole* (Grieve), straw and purple.
- Great Britain* (Parker), yellow ground, with broad margin of rich crimson purple, large eye, good.
- Lady Carrington* (Hunt), white ground, light purple.
- Lady Emily* (Downie & Co.), straw and dark purple.
- Lord John Russell* (Turner), golden yellow ground, with broad margin of rich velvety crimson, large dense eye, fine form, and smooth.
- Lord Palmerston* (Turner), golden yellow ground, with rich plum purple top petals and margin, large eye, fine form.
- Lord Raglan* (Turner), yellow ground, with broad margin of rich bronze purple, very large and fine.
- Marchioness of Bath* (Wheeler), white ground, blue top petals, margined with the same shade.
- Marion* (Dickson & Co.), straw and purple, large and fine form.
- Marquis of Bath* (Wheeler), rich yellow ground, broad dark marone purple border, large prominent eye; an improvement on Duke of Norfolk.
- Memnon* (Turner), rich velvety dark purple self; large, fine form, and very smooth.
- Miss Stewart* (Hales), pure white ground, purple top petals and margin, smooth, and good form.
- Miss Talbot* (Dickson), pale straw ground, bleaching to white; rich deep velvety purple, broad margin, smooth and fine.
- Mrs. Beck* (Turner), white ground, and fine dark purple.
- Mrs. M. Hamilton* (Nasmyth), white ground, and fine dark purple, large.
- Monarch* (Hale), deep golden yellow ground, top petals rich velvety dark marone, lower petals margined with the same colour, bold dark eye; the best of its class.
- National* (Turner), light purple top petals, and narrow margin of the same colour.
- Ophir* (Widnall), large yellow self.
- Royal Albert* (Turner), beautiful shaded purple self, very smooth.
- Royal Standard* (Dickson), pale straw, and medium margin of rich velvety purple, good eye, smooth, large, and fine form.
- Royal Visit* (Dickson), dark purple top petals and broad margin, extra fine.
- Satisfaction* (Turner), rich yellow ground, with medium margin of crimson purple, very prominent fine eye, very large, smooth, extra fine.

Sir John Cathcart (Turner), golden yellow ground, top petals fiery bronze crimson, lower petals margined with the same.

Sovereign (Dickson), rich yellow self.

The Rev. I. H. Gosset (Turner) rich deep yellow ground, with broad belting of black crimson, stout and very smooth, *extra fine*.

Uncle Tom (Thomson), dark velvety purple self, fine.

Victory (Hale), deep yellow ground, with broad margin of bronzy red, good eye, smooth, and fine.

GOOSEBERRIES.—J. CUNNINGHAM, *Peterhead*.—At page 344 of our last year's volume you will find full particulars of all the new varieties submitted to the Manchester meeting. It is quite out of our province to quote prices, that is the business of the dealer. If you are wanting show gooseberries, apply to Mr. John Holland, Bradshaw Gardens, Middleton, near Manchester, and we have full confidence you will have no reason to regret it.

CULTIVATION OF THE TIGRIDA PAVONIA.—This beautiful plant requires a warm well-drained situation. We have grown them very successfully in a light compost of melon bed manure, reduced to a black unctuous soil. This, with silver or river sand, and vegetable soil, formed from decayed oak, elm, or beech leaves, will suit them perfectly, though we must confess we have frequently lost the bulbs in winter, they being very susceptible of damp. We succeeded best in their preservation by keeping them during winter in very dry sand.

HINTS FOR THE MONTH.

FLORISTS' FLOWERS.

AURICULAS.—These are now growing rapidly, and must have a corresponding increase in the supply of moisture. They should be now removed to their blooming quarters. Some cultivators recommend a south aspect, but in the case of very strong sun, a *slight* shading during the middle of the day, is, we think, desirable. As they come into bloom, which they may be doing towards the end of the month, they should be removed to a more shaded aspect. See to the cleanliness of the stage or frame, or whatever they may be bloomed in. This is a great point in the cultivation of the auricula.

CALCEOLARIAS.—Those that are in their blooming pots must be kept clear of greenfly. Indeed this is the point in the management of these plants, without attention to which, during all periods of growth, other labour bestowed on them is futile.

Keep them cool, but avoid frost. Shade from bright sunshine. Young plants and seedlings may still be shifted.

CARNATIONS AND PICOTÉES.—It is now time to commence placing these in their blooming pots, and should the weather be favourable, the sooner it is completed the better; however, if the soil is too wet, it will be advisable rather to defer it, until this is in better condition. See well to drainage of the pots. Search diligently for wireworm. Where this is feared, it is well worth while to examine every handful of soil carefully. Pot firm. After potting, protection for a short time is advisable. Clean inverted pots will do, in the absence of a better expedient.

CINERARIAS.—Those in flower in the greenhouse will only require attention as regards water and keeping clear of green-fly. Those in frames should have air admitted liberally—recollecting, however, that cutting winds are highly injurious. Sow seed for autumn and winter blooming.

DAHLIAS.—This will be a busy month with this plant. Propagating will be at its height. Pot off the plants as soon as rooted, growing them in gentle heat, and harden them towards the end of the month, when, if room can be afforded, they may be repotted into three or four-inch pots. Pot-roots, if started now, will make good plants; they will not require so much heat, when once started, as spring-propagated plants. Sow seed in brisk heat.

EPACRIS.—Those which are going out of bloom should be cut back pretty close—tying out the shoots so as to cause them to break evenly. Cuttings will at this season root pretty freely, if inserted in sand, and placed under a bell-glass.

ERICAS.—Give plenty of air, but avoid cold cutting winds. Look well to mildew. Attend to shifting any plants which may require it.

FUCHSIAS.—Where large specimens are required, give plenty of room, and a moist genial atmosphere, using in potting good rich soil. Cuttings may be continued to be put in, for late-blooming plants.

HOLLYHOCKS ought now to be planted out in deep rich soil. Apply the stakes which will eventually be required at the time of planting.

PANSIES.—Look over the beds, and firm any plants which the late frosts may have loosened. Stir the surface of the beds with care. In the event of cutting winds which we frequently have at this season, a few spruce branches inserted, help greatly to prevent injury to the stock. Where top-dressing is practised, it should now be done. Side shoots taken as cuttings now will root readily.

PANSIES IN POTS will now be growing rapidly, and must be guarded from blighting winds and frost. Still, however, keep them as hardy as possible, otherwise they are apt to become drawn. Turn the pots round occasionally.

PELARGONIUMS.—Those intended for early blooming will now be showing their flower buds. Let each plant have abundance of space, so as to ensure entrance of light and circulation of air throughout the whole of it. See that they are clear of greenfly. Give occasional syringings over head, choosing fine weather for this purpose, and shutting up the house early after it. Young stock should now be shifted.

PINKS.—Any that have been kept in pots for the purpose, should now be planted out into the beds.

PINKS IN POTS.—(See carnations.) Use soil somewhat heavier than for carnations, and rather more manure.

RANUNCULUSES AND ANEMONES.—If any of these are still out of the ground, they should be planted without delay.

TULIPS.—Protect from cutting winds. They will be growing fast this month, should the weather be favourable.

CALENDAR OF OPERATIONS,

FOR APRIL.

[From *Rendle's Price Current and Garden Directory*.]

THE horticultural vessel is now indeed afloat in earnest, and let the helmsman be aware of shoals, quicksands, and rocks; we mean both mismanaged processes and those insect enemies which now rush into being with extraordinary celerity. Seed sowing must be closely attended to, and what was neglected in March must be at once carried out. One thing stands in relief here; a full and constant supply of winter greens, or "cabbage-worts," as they now term them, depends more on sowings made this month than perhaps any other. We will not enlarge further: a book might be written on the business of this month.

BROCCOLI.—Sow the Early Cape, Grange's Early, Adam's Superb, and Walcheren, for autumn crop, and a small sowing in the middle of the month, of such as Willcove (Rendle's Improved), Mammoth (Elletson's), Chapple's Cream, and the late purple kinds.

ASPARAGUS should be sown; and new plantations made.

CARROTS.—Continue to sow the Early Horn, and a full crop of the larger varieties. Improved Altringham and James's Green Top will be found the best for general crop. Tolerably light, rich, sandy soil will be found to suit them best; but no fresh manure.

CAULIFLOWER plants should be pricked out as soon as they can be handled. Continue to transplant such as have been preserved through the winter in the open ground; they will still require a little protection.

POTATOES.—Plant general crop on good soil, medium-sized tubers, in preference to large ones cut.

SAVOYS and **BORECOLE** should be sown for full crop. Transplant such as are up and ready.

CABBAGES.—Sow Atkin's Matchless Nonpareil, and any of the small kinds. They may be planted closer than the large varieties, heart readily, and are quicker off the ground.

DWARF FRENCH and **SCARLET RUNNER BEANS.**—Sow in a warm situation a full crop, the latter part of the month. Where sticks are scarce, Scarlet Runners may be grown dwarf, by stopping early; they will produce a good crop in this manner. Of dwarf sorts sow such as Robin's Eggs, or Early Six Weeks, for early crop. Negro, Long-podded, and Dun-coloured, are also excellent, and come in later.

BROAD BEANS.—Windsor, Longpods, Johnson's Wonderful, and Green Windsor, are the most preferable sorts. Early sorts, when coming into flower, should have their tops pinched off, to facilitate their early podding.

PEAS.—Continue to sow for succession. Such as those recommended last month will still be found to answer well. The same mode of pinching out the tops of shoots will be found to answer equally well with peas as beans, and for the same purpose.

PARSLEY.—Sow, if not already done.

CUCUMBERS.—Sow ridge varieties, for planting out. Those in frames should be stopped at each show of fruit, and the vine regularly thinned and trained; never thin very extensively at any one time. Apply water very carefully, and after fine days; shut up early, and endeavour to keep up a nice growing heat, from seventy to eighty degrees. Shade in sunny weather.

HERBS.—Sow on warm borders, in fine light soil; transplant also mint, rue, lemon-thyme, sage, tarragon, balm, and other perennial herbs, if not already done.

CELERY.—Sow for late crop, and transplant such as are up, four inches apart, to get strong healthy plants for final planting in ridges.

BET.—Sow for general crop. Rendle's Superb Crimson, and Whyte's Black Red, are both highly coloured, and clean in the root. Silver or Sea Kale may be sown as a substitute for the latter vegetable.

VEGETABLE MARROWS.—Sow now, in order to have good plants for early planting.

CAPSICUM and **TOMATO** plants should be hardened off, if not already done.

TURNIP.—Sow in a cool situation; and in the latter part of the month sow for general summer crop.

RADISHES, MUSTARD, AND CRESS.—Keep up a good supply; the turnip varieties will do well now.

LETTUCE—Continue to sow a little seed, and transplant such as are already fit; sorts as recommended for last month.

ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

ON

SOME OF THE CHIEF PROPERTIES OF THE TULIP:

BEING A REPLY TO WILLIAM JOHN.

BY G. W. HARDY, ESQ.

THE various properties of the tulip have been of late years so freely discussed in the periodicals devoted to floriculture, that it is not improbable the inquiry of William John would have escaped my notice, had it not been for the appeal which accompanied it. To Mr. Dodwell we are largely indebted for the important services he has long rendered to the progress of floriculture; and remembering the many advantages which I, in common with other florists, have derived from his valuable assistance, and the strong claims he has on our support, in his new and responsible undertaking, I feel it would be ungenerous to refuse the information required; though I am not aware of there being anything peculiar in the views I entertain on the subjects proposed for our consideration.

Tulip growing is now carried on to a great extent in this kingdom. The number of varieties is rapidly on the increase; and the societies for encouraging its successful culture, which are continually springing into existence around us, cannot fail, by their liberality, to extend it. It is, therefore, of the utmost importance we should know the principles which ought to guide our judgment in determining the merits of any particular tulip, as well as in selecting new varieties for cultivation.

If we refer to the reports of the various exhibitions throughout the kingdom for information, we find it somewhat conflicting. In some localities, particularly

of this and the adjoining counties, the first prizes are frequently given to varieties which have no pretensions to form or purity, fine marking being the only property which obtains for them the preference; whilst in other districts, particularly in the south, purity is regarded as indispensable, and, when conjoined with superior form, will secure the highest position for varieties which are seldom or never marked correctly.

It is, however, gratifying to observe the decided improvement which is everywhere manifested in the character of our exhibitions. We see it not only in the superior quality of the tulips submitted to competition, but also in the evidence they afford of a more correct appreciation of their several properties, and a more general concurrence of opinion respecting them. For these results we are in some measure indebted to the able communications which have from time to time appeared in the pages of the *Midland Florist*, but chiefly, I think, to the operations of the National Tulip Society, which have hitherto been remarkably successful. Large quantities of our best and newest varieties being brought together in close competition, under the personal inspection of the most eminent cultivators from all parts of the kingdom, their relative merits are freely discussed, their several properties are better understood, and we thus become enabled to define with greater accuracy the distinguishing characteristics of a fine tulip.

PURITY, MARKING, and FORM are the chief properties,—size, substance of petal, and all other points being subordinate to these three. It will be interesting, therefore, to examine their respective claims to our preference.

Where all the subjects for consideration are important, it is not of much moment which has the precedence; but living, as I do, in a county where MARKING, whether it be of a polyanthus, an auricula, a pink, or a tulip, is generally preferred to any other property, perhaps I may be permitted to notice this

one first. The forms which marking ordinarily assume are two—feather and flame. By a *feathered tulip* we mean one in which the marking is limited exclusively to the edges of the petals. The colour of it varies in intensity and brilliancy, as well as in the space it occupies, in different varieties. In some instances it is merely a narrow streak, confined to the very margin; in others it occupies a considerable breadth, and between these two limits we have every shade of difference. It also varies as to the manner in which (to use a florist's phrase) it is laid on. In some the colour is laid on densely, terminating abruptly on the lower edge, and forming what is now called a *plated* feather; in others it terminates in slender streaks, arising from some of the rows of cells containing colouring matter much lower down the body of the petal than the intervening ones; thereby producing an appearance termed *pencilled*, which is by far the most beautiful kind of feather. To be perfect, the ground colour, whether white or yellow, should be completely pure and bright, and entirely free from spot or mark of any kind, except the feathering round the edges of the petals. This should be laid on evenly, and without break, throughout its whole extent, terminating gradually and imperceptibly on the lateral margins of every petal alike, at a point not nearer to the stem than one-fourth the whole length of the petal; for unless the petals be of unusual thickness, the colouring matter on the edges, if carried lower, as it often is, is apt to impart a certain degree of impurity to the base, which it otherwise would not possess. I think also that the breadth of the feather, measured from the tips of the petals, should not exceed one-fourth their length; for if it do, the large amount of surface which then becomes covered with colour, causes the flower to assume too much the character of a breeder. Another indication of a perfect feather is its lower edge strictly preserving an arched form, so as to harmonize more completely with the general form of the flower. The

bearded feather, or that in which an approach is made to the formation of a beam down the centre of the petal, has the effect of destroying the beauty arising from this harmony of marking and form, by producing two arches of irregular shape, the curves on the two sides of each arch being unequal, and therefore offensive to the eye. On this account, the bearded feather should be regarded as more or less defective, according to the size of the beard; and in no instance should a flower thus marked be shown as a flamed flower, as the beam is not sufficiently developed.

This naturally brings me to the consideration of what is a *flamed tulip*. A tulip is said to be flamed which has, in addition to the feathering before described, a coloured beam or pillar, occupying to a greater or less extent, the centre of every petal. In some instances, it consists of a narrow stripe of colour, of almost equal width, extending up the middle of the petal, from a point not far distant from its narrow extremity, to the tip, or very near it. At other times, the beam assumes a pyramidal shape, occupying almost the entire breadth of the petal, at its base, and gradually tapering as it rises upwards, till it is lost in the feather, at the tip. Between these two descriptions of beam there is every kind of form and size. Sometimes the beam is one solid mass of colour; at others, it shows streaks of ground colour, more or less numerous, throughout its whole extent, in consequence of some of the cells not containing the darker colouring matter. Sometimes the margin of the beam is even, like the plated feather; at others, narrow stripes, more or less streaked with the ground colour, are thrown upwards from its sides, and gradually become divided into still narrower stripes, till ultimately they form delicate pencillings, which become blended with the pencillings of the feather, in the most beautiful manner. The most perfect specimen is that in which the feathering on the edge is beautifully pencilled, and of medium

width ; the colour of the beam and feather exactly alike ; the beam itself of a pyramidal form, and of moderate breadth, being free from streaks of ground colour in its centre, but gradually throwing off smaller pencillings from its sides, to commingle with the pencillings of the feather, without rising to any part of the margin of the petals in a solid mass of colour. There should be one-fourth of the whole length of the petal below the base of the beam, and one-half of the entire surface wholly free from colour, so as to leave a field sufficiently large to display the marking of the beam and feather to the greatest advantage. If the quantity of coloured marking should greatly exceed the limits here assigned to it, it would approach too nearly the breeder state, and be condemned as too heavy. On the other hand, if we have a flower which "is first-rate in bottom, cup, and feathering, but with simply a beam down the middle of each petal," it would require very superior marking to defeat it, and William John need not fear its being rejected by men of taste and judgment.

An attempt has recently been made to establish a class for the exhibition of tulips entirely destitute of feather, and marked with a beam only. All tulips of this kind I regard as so many instances of defective organization, affecting chiefly the colour-producing power, and utterly unworthy the notice of the florist. For my own part, I have no pleasure in them.

Fine marking, I doubt not, will always be held in high estimation by the genuine florist. It is this property alone over which he is able to exert any immediate control, and the only one on which the careful and intelligent cultivator has to depend for maintaining his superiority over the idle and the ignorant. So far as form and purity are concerned, all are on an equality ; for whether tulips are by nature perfect or imperfect in form, or whether they are pure or impure in colour, their character in these respects cannot be altered by any system of management we may adopt. But it is not so with marking,

which, except in varieties naturally defective in this property, will always reward the diligent cultivator with success proportioned to the amount of skill employed to produce it.

It is obvious, therefore, that *correct marking* ought on all occasions to be deemed an *indispensable requisite* in a tulip. In giving expression to this opinion, however, I am by no means prepared to justify the exclusive preference with which many florists have been accustomed to regard it; nor am I disposed to admit that it is the "first property." Fine marking, unfortunately, is often associated with gross impurity of base and stamens, as well as with bad form; and were we to adopt it as the test by which alone we are to distinguish the good from the bad, we should find ourselves under the necessity of admitting to competition many tulips we should be ashamed to own.

FORM is said by some florists to furnish us with a more certain test of excellence. Having already given a full explanation of my views on this property, in the first volume of the *Midland Florist*, it will not be necessary to recapitulate the rules there laid down for the guidance of our judgment respecting it. More enlarged experience has only tended to confirm the accuracy of the principles on which they are founded; and those who may feel particularly interested with this part of our subject, will not, perhaps, find their time misspent, by referring to the articles, at pages 105, 141, and 365 of that volume. It will suffice for our present purpose to remark that *perfect form* is undoubtedly an extremely valuable property; for, independently of the pleasure we derive from the uniformity of outline, and the graceful combination of equal curves which it presents, it secures to us the largest amount of space for the proper development of the markings, and at the same time enables us to examine them with the greatest advantage, by the command it gives us of the whole interior of the flower at one view. Still, notwith

standing the high opinion I entertain of the value of this property, the fact that we often meet with it in flowers so thoroughly impure, or so entirely destitute of marking, as to be utterly worthless, forces me to the conclusion that we cannot always regard it as indicative of superior excellence.

It becomes needful, therefore, to look for some other property on which we may more confidently rely as a *first* test of merit than either form or marking, and this, I believe, we find in PURITY. Our southern florists have long urged upon us the necessity of paying more attention to this property; and it is to them we are mainly indebted for the more just appreciation of its value and usefulness, which now very generally prevails. Indeed it is surprising that impurity in the tulip should have been so long tolerated; as even in localities where this is at present most conspicuous, numbers of pinks, auriculas, carnations, picotees, and other florists' flowers have been regularly condemned for this defect alone. The advantages we derive from purity are considerable, and have only to be seen and understood to be fully appreciated. In every well-marked flower which possesses it we invariably find an amount of brilliancy imparted to the marking proportioned to the degree of purity existing in the ground colour on which it is displayed. Indeed purity seems to be essential to the production of fine marking, and especially so in the tulip. To be convinced of this, we have only to take such varieties as Trafalgar, Surpasse le Cantique, Bienfait, Sable Rex, Lady Crewe, and Roi de Cerise, all of which have taken first prizes at recent exhibitions, and compare them with Sphinx, Polyphemus, Abbott's Gem, Salvator Rosa, Heroine, and Lac, or other similar varieties, when even the most sceptical will not fail to recognize the vast superiority which purity alone confers on those last named. In fact, all adventitious colouring, whether of the base or stamens, is more or less destructive of beauty, and the sooner

all impure varieties are discarded from our exhibitions and our collections, the greater will be the pleasure we shall all experience in the cultivation of this truly splendid flower.

Warrington, March 17, 1855.

DAHLIAS.

WE had prepared an analysis of the flowers shown at the principal exhibitions, last year, which, as a rule, may be regarded as the safest guide to the inexperienced; but from the exceptional character of the season, the result was so unsatisfactory, that we considered we should best serve the interests of the admirers of these flowers, by placing before them the selections of our leading cultivators, rather than a list which must have been subjected to many arbitrary exclusions, or accompanied by equally perplexing explanations. We therefore applied to our friends, Mr. Charles Turner, of the Royal Nursery, Slough, and Mr. John Keynes, of Salisbury, and at the foot we give the selection most kindly made by them—thirty-six show varieties and eighteen fancies.

MR. CHARLES TURNER'S LIST.

THIRTY-SIX DAHLIAS.

- Admiral Dundas* (Lawton).—Salmon buff; very full and deep flower. Four to five feet.
- Agincourt* (Fellowes).—Rosy purple, with fine petal and outline. Very fine early. Four feet.
- Amazon* (G. Holmes).—White, with deep tip of rich crimson lake. Extra fine. Three to four feet.
- Annie* (Rawlings).—Lilac. A flower of beautiful form and medium size, and very constant. Four to five feet.
- Annie Salter* (Salter).—Delicate peach. Four feet.
- Beauty of Bath* (Bush).—A very fine rich deep yellow variety, of medium size and great substance. Four to five feet.
- Bob* (Drummond).—Bright scarlet. Four feet.
- Cossack* (Fellowes).—Bright carmine, large, with close centre. An excellent variety for competition.
- Duke of Wellington* (Drummond).—Orange. Four feet.

- Espartero* (Turner).—Bright red ; a flower from and of the style of, Sir C. Napier, but several shades deeper in colour, with more erect habit, producing its flowers on strong upright footstalks. It is a flower of great depth and first-rate shape. Three feet.
- Fanny Keynes* (Keynes).—Buff, tipped with crimson purple ; large and good shape. Five feet.
- George Villiers* (Union).—Dark purple. Three feet.
- Glenlyon* (Fellowes).—Reddish orange and buff shaded. A large constant flower for the back tier.
- King of Yellows* (Collier).—Pale yellow ; full size. Four to five feet.
- Lady Mary Labouchere* (Turner).—White, tipped with lavender. Fine early. Two feet.
- Lord Bath* (Wheeler).—A noble variety, possessing the quality of Sir F. Bathurst, but larger and much more double. Colour dark marone. Three feet.
- Lilac King* (Rawlings).—Lilac ; fine form. Two to three feet.
- Malvina* (Howard).—White, mottled and tipped with purple. Four feet.
- Miss Caroline* (Brittle).—White, delicately tipped with lavender. Four to five feet.
- Miss Spears* (Lamont).—Rich shaded marone. Four feet.
- Miss Susan Sainsbury* (Drummond).—White, delicately shaded with peach ; fine form, occasionally hard centre. Three feet.
- Mr. Seldon* (Turner).—Rosy purple. Three feet.
- Pre-eminent* (Fellowes).—A full-sized flower, of the finest quality ; rich deep purple or plum colour ; of great depth and substance. Four feet.
- Queen of Lilacs* (Turner).—Pale lilac. Fine. Four feet.
- Queen of Whites* (Bush).—Best white. Two feet.
- Rachel Rawlings* (Keynes).—Pale peach ; large and constant. Four feet.
- Ringleader* (G. Holmes).—This flower, like Amazon, by the same raiser, will be constantly seen in the winning stands. The colour is bright ruby, flower of medium size, with petal and outline perfection. Three feet.
- Robert Bruce* (Bush).—Orange ; full and constant. Three feet.
- Royal Sovereign* (Hooper).—Deep yellow ; fine form and great depth, large. Not to be disbudded till late in the season. Four to five feet.
- Ruby Queen* (Keynes).—Bright ruby ; good shape, medium size. Four to five feet.
- Sir R. Whittington* (Drummond).—Ruby crimson. Four to five feet.
- Sir F. Bathurst* (Keynes).—Crimson ; fine form. Three feet.
- Sir C. Napier* (Hale).—Deep scarlet ; extra fine. Two feet.
- Sir J. Franklin* (Turner).—Shaded buff ; exquisite form. Four feet.

The Nigger (Fellowes).—The darkest flower yet raised; very double and constant. Four feet.

Triumphant (Keynes).—Ruby crimson. Five feet.

EIGHTEEN FANCY VARIETIES.

Abbe Bouquillon (Renynghe).—Scarlet, tipped with white. Three feet.

Admiration (Green).—White and scarlet; very constant and attractive. Three to four feet.

Attraction (Jeffries).—White and crimson carmine. Four feet.

Baron Alderson (Perry).—A very novel flower. Bright orange, with a distinct white tip on each petal; large, full, very constant, and exceedingly attractive. Three feet.

Comet (Keynes).—Mottled and striped. Fine form. Three feet.

Duchess of Kent (Knight).—Pale yellow, tipped with white; very fine form. Four feet.

Elizabeth (Procter).—Blush and rosy purple; fine form. Three to four feet.

Empereur de Maroc (Huidoux).—Marone, tipped with white. Four feet.

Gloire de Kain (Cailloux).—White, striped and spotted with marone. The finest of its class. Four feet.

Imperatrice Eugenie (Miquet).—Pure white, edged with purple. A beautiful variety. Three feet.

Kossuth (Drummond).—Red, tipped white. Three to four feet.

Marvel (Pope).—Yellow, heavily spotted and striped with red; fine form. Three feet.

Miss Frampton (Rawlings).—Red, tipped with white; very pure, and fine form. Three to four feet.

Miss Herbert (Dodds).—Lilac fawn, tipped with white; good form. Three feet.

Pigeon (De Kniff).—White, with rosy salmon edge to each petal; very fine form and constant.

Rachel (Gaines).—Purple, tipped with white; large. Three feet.

Reine des Fleurs (Scalabre).—Rosy purple, tipped with white; fine form and substance. Three feet.

Topsy (Keynes).—Purple, mottled and striped with white; fine form. Two feet.

MR. JOHN KEYNES' LIST.

THIRTY-SIX DAHLIAS.

DARK.

Essex Triumph (Brown).—Shaded variety. Four feet.

Nigger (Turner).—The darkest flower raised. Very double and constant.

LIGHT-EDGED, MOTTLED, OR TIPPED.

Amazon (Holmes).—Extra fine. Three feet.

Miss Susan (Drummond).—Four feet.

Malvina (Turner).—Good form. Grow all. Three feet.

Empress (Procter).—Very fine. Three feet.

PURPLE.

Lord Bath (Wheeler).—Dark marone; first rate quality. Four feet.

Monsieur Dugere.—Three feet.

BUFF AND ORANGE.

Duke of Wellington (Drummond).—Three feet.

CRIMSON.

Pre-eminent (Fellowes).—Rich deep purple or plum colour; full size and fine form. Four feet.

Ruby Queen (Keynes).—Extra fine. Four feet.

Sir F. Bathurst (Keynes).—Three feet.

SALMON AND ORANGE SHADED, EDGED, AND TIPPED.

Fanny Keynes (Keynes).—Extra fine. Four feet.

Lady Folkstone (Keynes).—Extra fine. Three feet.

Port Royal (Miellez).—Salmon, tipped purple; extra fine. Three feet.

SCARLET.

Espartero (Turner).—Four feet.

General Canrobert (Miellez).—Extra fine. Four feet.

YELLOW.

Colonel Baker (Dodds).—Four feet.

Goldsmith (Keynes).—Extra fine. Four feet.

Immortal (Miquet).—Extra fine. Four feet.

Yellow Standard (Keynes).—Three feet.

WHITE.

Mrs. Stowe (Dodds).—Extra fine. Four feet.

Mrs. Rawlings (Rawlings).—Extra fine. Three feet.

BRONZE PINK, MOTTLED AND SHADED.

Dhawali Giri (Drummond).—Four feet.

General Faucher (Miellez).—Five feet.

John Keynes (Dodds).—Salmon pink. Four feet.

DARK BLUSH OR PEACH, SHADED AND EDGED.

Exquisite (Rawlings).—Blush cream colour; extra fine. Three feet.

Ne plus ultra (Rawlings).—Extra fine. Four feet.

Rachel Rawlings (Keynes).—One of the finest flowers in the world. Four feet.

RED.

Sir Charles Napier (Turner).—Three feet.

ORANGE SCARLET.

Golden Eagle (Holmes).—Four feet.

LILAC.

Annie (Rawlings).—Unrivalled, extra fine. Three feet.

Fearless (Barnes).—Five feet.

Lilac King (Rawlings).—Extra fine. Three feet.

ROSE.

Rose Unique (Alexander).—Four feet.

Rosea Elegans (Turner).—Four feet.

EIGHTEEN FANCY VARIETIES.

Abbe Bouquillon (Mieliez).—Scarlet, tipped white; extra fine. Three feet.

Admiration (Green).—Scarlet, tipped white. Four feet.

Butterfly.—Yellow and red; fine. Three feet.

Baron Alderson (Perry).—Scarlet, tipped white; extra fine. Four feet.

Comet (Keynes).—Purple scarlet and white; extra fine. Three feet.

Duchess of Kent (Knight).—Yellow, tipped white; finest form. Very first-rate. Three feet.

Duchess of Brabant (Haquin).—Purple violet, tipped white. Four feet.

Gloire de Kain.—Crimson and white striped; very fine form. One of the best. Three feet.

Imperatrice Eugenie.—Crimson striped, tipped white; extra fine.

Leader (Keynes).—Striped marone. Four feet.

Marvel (Pope).—Yellow, striped scarlet. Four feet.

Miss Frampton (Rawlings).—Blood colour, tipped white. The finest fancy flower ever offered. Three to four feet.

Miss Herbert (Dodds).—Creamy lilac, tipped white. Three feet.

Mrs. Hansard (Edwards).—Yellow, tipped white. Four feet.

Pigeon (De Kniff).—Rosy bronze, tipped white; extra fine. One of the finest of the year. Three feet.

Reine des Fleurs.—Crimson, tipped white; extra fine. Four feet.

Surpriser (Oakley).—Dark crimson, tipped white; extra. Three feet.

Topsy (Keynes).—Mottled purple; extra fine. Three feet.

“FLOWERS ARE THE SWEETEST OF ALL NATURE’S
SMILES.”

DEAR MR. EDITOR,—I love flowers for their own sakes. My most happy hours have been spent in communion with them; and with lively pleasure I oft recall the happy school days when, with my companions, I roamed the “woodlands wild,” to

gather some of nature's earliest gifts, while we talked about our future husbands and lovers. To quote the words of an admired writer, "flowers come upon us in spring, like the recollections of a dream, which hovered above us in sleep, peopled with shadowy beauties and purple delights,—fancy-broidered. So many are the associations connected with our early spring flowers, that even some which, but for these feelings, might be considered homely specimens of nature's handiwork, stand high in our favour, and seem to possess something dearer than beauty to make us prize them."

" Beautiful things ye are, where'er ye grow,—
The wild red rose—the speedwell's peeping eyes—
Our own bluebell!—the daisy, that doth rise
Wherever sunbeams fall, or winds do blow,
And thousands more, of varied forms and dyes,
I love ye all."

Who, then, would wish to live without flowers?

" Flowers have a soul in every leaf."

In my simple mind, I entertained the idea that as the cultivation of flowers was an innocent recreation, affording a relaxation from the cares and turmoils of every day life; and in the contemplation of the various lovely gems so bountifully bestowed by an allwise Providence, for the gratification of our intellectual tastes, was imparted a real and unmixed enjoyment; so also I imagined that florists were the most honourable and honest of individuals, striving to excel each other in a spirit of laudable emulation; in a word, they were like the flowers they produced,—faultless. I never imagined that there was a *dark side* to be considered, and had entirely overlooked the fact, that florists, like other men, were subject to jealousy, angry disputations, "envy, hatred, malice, and all uncharitableness." But my pleasant dreams have been dissipated; and all my preconceived ideas of their superior excellencies, like seeds of the dandelion, have been scattered to the winds.

One of the latest shocks I have suffered, has been due to a circular, given in the last year's volume of

the *Midland Florist*, at page 380, announcing the formation of a new florists' society, in the northern parts of England,—and imputing such unheard-of dishonesty to other florists (though who or what they are, whether gentle or simple, I know not) as has well nigh made me eschew florists and floriculture for ever.

Surely, dear Mr. Editor, some attempt will be made to obtain an explanation of the statements so widely disseminated in the prospectus to which I allude? But perhaps it may be questioned, what has a lady to do with the matter? I answer, everything. For may not a female have a taste for flowers and their culture, as well as you (selfstyled) "lords of the creation?" Surely she may. Surely it is open to her as to all persons of refined taste, to distinguish flowers possessing more beauty, either in their forms or the intensity of their colours, from those of ordinary cultivation? She has then an interest in keeping a subject so eminently peaceful, so pure, and so full of *quiet* enjoyment, free from broils and turmoils, whether fomented by ignorance, by passion, or prejudice, or any such things. And I think I am no more guilty of presumption in thus noticing this subject, than I have been when, at floral exhibitions, to which I am a frequent visiter, it has been my business to point out to my friends the very splendid flowers that were "first-rate;" a phrase which I overheard a gentlemanly person apply to a collection of those very beautiful flowers the carnation and picotee,—and, in truth, they *were* "first-rate."

One more observation, if you please, dear Mr. Editor, and I close my long epistle. I have read Mr. Slater's descriptive list of tulips, which I doubt not, possesses value in the eyes of all tulip amateurs, but the introductory remarks alone engaged my attention. Is it not much to be deplored that Mr. Slater continues the over-use of *galls* in his ink? If he could be prevailed upon to allow a little of the "milk of human kindness" to flow from his pen, his

literary productions would be much more worth the reading. His hackneyed motto, too,

"Thrice the brindled cat hath mewed,"

is nearly worn out. Let me suggest the adoption of a new one, and one more in accordance with human sympathies and the loveliness of flowers.

I beg, lastly, to observe, that remarks written in a style calculated to engender ill feelings, should not be permitted to find publicity in floral publications. In all cases it would be more manly to state specific facts, and not leave them to be implied by the fancy or imagination of the reader.

HANNAH JANE D.

Marston, Birmingham.

[We regret that the very agreeable illusions of our fair correspondent have been so rudely dissipated. We trust, however, she will not fall into an opposite error, and believe that florists are subject only to "envy, hatred, malice, and all uncharitableness." They are as other men, subject to the same impulses, and moved by the same passions; always, we trust, somewhat ameliorated by the softening influences surrounding them. We deplore the fact, that there has been from time to time so much to deserve the criticism and censure of those who look with interest upon the progress of floriculture, and we have permitted the gentle strictures of our correspondent to appear, in the hope that they will awaken in the minds of all florists a greater circumspection, and a stronger determination that the cause they have so much at heart may not suffer from any unseemly ebullitions or exhibitions of ignorance on their part. In common with many others, we saw with deep regret the publication of the circular referred to; of which it is not too much to say, one more injudicious could hardly have been chosen by gentlemen evidently governed by a very meritorious desire. But no one intimately acquainted with the proceedings of the floricultural community could be misled by it. Those

so informed could not but see in its impracticable propositions and its false assumptions, that it had originated simply in ignorance; and for ourselves, we may say we felt quite sure any rebuke which such unfounded assumptions might deserve, might be safely left to be administered by the experience which these gentlemen had placed themselves in the way of obtaining,—an experience which will teach them the difficulty of reconciling the diverse judgments of their fellow men;—of here imparting intelligence, there discretion, good taste, and discrimination. They will learn, too, that though their decisions be governed by the strictest integrity, and though their judgments be without fault, yet they shall not escape censure;—if as “pure as snow,” they shall still suffer “calumny.” We sincerely hope they will meet this experience manfully, and learn with their wider experience, a wider forbearance, and a more enlarged charity. Saying this, which we think the subject demands, we desire to record with it, our cordial approval of the objects the promoters of the society seem to have in view, and our hearty desire to advance its interests by every means at our disposal.—ED.]

TULIP REMINISCENCES.

WHEN two such floral giants as Mr. Harrison and Mr. Lightbody disagree, it may appear presumptuous to interfere between them, but having grown Marcellus for some years, I must say that I have never remarked any grizzlyness about it, but quite the contrary; indeed I consider that variety and Strong's King the two best flamed bizzarres on my bed. I bought Marcellus at the sale of Mr. Brown, of Slough. No doubt such differences of opinion as those between Mr. Harrison and Mr. Lightbody arise from their seeing different strains of the same flower. As an example of this, I have, at various times,

bought six bulbs of Louis XVI. Two of these were quite blue at the bottom of the cup, and worthless; the others were good, but not quite clean at the base,—and I doubt if it ever does come quite clean. Perhaps you will inform me in your next whether I am right in this opinion.*

Your correspondent, Alpha, appears astonished at the catalogued price of London flowers. I think that I can explain this to him. It is, or was, the custom of one or more of the London tulip growers to admit the public to see their flowers, at the charge of one shilling per head, for entrance. Now as not one in twenty of the aforesaid public has the least idea of a good tulip, it is necessary to do something to attract it; consequently, when Mrs. Gamp goes to see the flowers, her first question naturally is (for it is always that which is asked first by non-amateurs), "Pray, Sir, which do you consider your best flower?" "Oh," replies the florist, "the price of this is one hundred guineas!" Of course the lady opens her eyes in astonishment, and runs off to tell her gossip and neighbour, Mrs. Harris, that Mr. A. has a tulip worth "one hundred guineas!" Mrs. Harris must see this wonderful flower, and so it goes from neighbour to neighbour, until all the worthies in the street have seen it, and so many additional shillings have passed into the exhibiter's pocket. But the growers of these tulips may probably not wish to sell them till they have a good stock, and they act on the principle adopted at a poultry show, where a pen of a cock and three hens is marked at £100, and I think I have seen a pair of pigeons marked at £20. It is evident that they do not expect to obtain such a price, and that it is put upon them to frighten buyers away, or at all events to make them pay for their fancy.

The reasons I have mentioned, or others that florists may have, may be very good for keeping up the nominal price of tulips, but when twenty of Mr. Goldham's best flowers were sold by auction, last

* We have never seen Louis XVI. *absolutely pure*.—En.

year (as they were), for less than twenty pounds, it is manifestly absurd to suppose that any one would give one hundred pounds for a single bulb; at all events, if such a one can be found, he must be a very near relation to Mr. Verdant Green.

W. N. S.

EXTRACTS, HINTS, AND RECOLLECTIONS.

THE FORTHCOMING NEW DAHLIAS.

[*From the Florist.*]

"Nothing extenuate,
Nor set down aught in malice."

IN discoursing of the dahlia, I am too sensible of having engrossed a large portion of valuable space in the last two numbers of the *Florist*. It is not without some hesitation I venture to protract the subject: still I feel it incumbent on me to complete the task I have voluntarily taken in hand. Hitherto my observations have been confined exclusively to the *past*. The *present* of the dahlia grower is somewhat of a blank; but with him, as with all of mortal mould, "hope springs eternal:" and there yet remains the *future*, on which he may and will speculate. In our review—I say *our*, gentle reader, because I would fain hope you and I have been travelling together in no ungenial companionship: but deem not, I entreat you, that I aspire to wield the thunderbolts implied by the *awful editorial pronoun*. In our review (let me repeat) of the past dahlia season, we have limited ourselves to the consideration of those varieties with which we have established, through the medium of an acquaintance of more or less duration, a certain degree of intimacy. Now, although old friends are

not to be lightly discarded for new, we should not altogether overlook the claims of the rising generation. We may, and perhaps ought, at first, to be somewhat chary of our confidence; but it would be unfair, if we were wilfully blind to either their merits or demerits: nor should we withhold the "word in season," be it of encouragement, of commendation, or, if need be, of reproof.

I now propose to enter upon what would doubtless prove both a thankless and an invidious task, if undertaken in any other than a spirit of integrity and honesty of purpose,—viz., some investigation of the claims which the new dahlias of 1855 may or may not have to our consideration. Bearing in mind the motto prefixed to this paper, I proceed, without further preface, to offer an opinion of the merits of some amongst the most prominent of the seedlings *proved* during the past season—the majority of which, it may reasonably be presumed, will soon present themselves as candidates for our suffrages. Nay, I will advance a step further, and boldly assign to each *what I believe to be* its relative position in the scale of excellence. That this last resolution is scarcely a wise one, I am powerfully reminded at the very threshold of my subject: inasmuch as two aspirants, with claims entirely dissimilar, rise up before my vision, each, in its turn, advancing weighty reasons why it should be placed at the head of the poll. After a careful scrutiny, I find it my duty, as an impartial returning officer, waiving my undoubted right of giving the casting vote, to pronounce the numbers for each to be alike; I therefore bracket them thus,

1. { *Pre-eminent* (Fellowes). } Equal.
 { *Annie* (Rawlings).

Now no two dahlias can be more thoroughly unlike than these, unlike in everything save the attribute of surpassing beauty. The former, displaying the superb and stately bearing of a Zenobia, boldly challenges our admiration: the latter *attracts* it by

the softer but not less fascinating graces of a Cleopatra. Two extracts from my note book, the one bearing date September 13, the other September 19, 1854, will suffice to show the estimate I have formed of these two varieties.

"*Pre-eminent*, originally named *Combatant*.—A very large bold purple flower, possessing unusual brilliancy, intensity, and *body* of colour, good petal, great depth, and perfect centre; appears constant, and must become a general favourite."

"*Annie*.—Lilac. One of the most perfect dahlias in existence. This is not a large flower, but in general form, outline, petal, and centre, it really leaves little to be desired. It bears, moreover, the mark of constancy."

I think it will be generally admitted of these two varieties, that we recognize in each the most perfect type of its respective *style*—in a word, the Minna and Brenda of dahlias.

3. *Lord Bath* (Wheeler).—A full-sized noble marone, of the right durable stamp, treading very closely on the heels of *Pre-eminent*; its general appearance is indicative of constancy, if, indeed that property may ever be predicted with safety. It combines great fulness with good petal, plentiful substance, and close centre. "Take it for all in all," it presents an aggregate of good qualities which cannot fail to ensure for it a very large amount of popularity.
4. *Espartero* (Turner).—A dark scarlet flower, of excellent proportions, a little below the average size, with abundance of small well-formed and well-arranged petals, ample substance, and a close high centre. A very promising variety.
5. *Ringleader* (G. Holmes), having been "kept in" last year, has undergone a probation of two seasons, and is therefore pretty generally known. It presents a well-formed petal and a most perfect outline, but these same good qualities are unfortunately conducive to a centre somewhat depressed, the only exception which can be taken to this exquisite sort. Size about medium.
6. *Ruby Queen* (Keynes).—A very brilliant medium-sized flower, of the colour indicated by its name. It possesses many excellent points, but a little more depth is required to render it quite perfect. The shape of its petal is unexceptionable; in this respect it is almost unique. It has been extensively and successfully shown, and will in no way detract from the well-earned reputation of its raiser.
7. *Bessy* (Sainsbury) is from a source which has already supplied us with not a few celebrities. Colour very bright yellow; petal, outline, and centre good, with moderate depth. It

may be a question, and it is one which time alone can solve, how far the purity of its colour, so remarkable in some of the specimens exhibited, may be dependant on close shading.

8. *The Nigger* (Fellowes), if not quite black, is sufficiently dusky to justify its name. *Essex Triumph* has long maintained a sort of prescriptive right to the leadership of the dark class. Shall it henceforward resign its pretensions to this son of Canaan? It is difficult to say. The battle yet remains to be fought which shall decide the question. Let the old monarch still retain our allegiance, until the new aspirant shall have given proof of superior claims.
9. *Cossack* (Fellowes). Bright red, a large and deep variety, which will probably be extremely useful for the back row. Very splendid, as seen in the stand of twenty-four which gained the silver cup at Brighton. If often to be had in that state, it would be entitled to assume the highest rank. It is, perhaps, safer to assign it that moderate position to which its general good qualities, on all occasions, fairly entitle it.
10. *Empress* (Procter) is pretty and delicate. Colour very like that of *Annie Salter*, which variety it also resembles in other particulars. It will doubtless be a favourite with many, but it scarcely exhibits sufficient novelty, either of form or colour, to render its possession absolutely indispensable.
11. *Dr. Reed* (Rawlings).—Purple crimson, of good form and centre, much after the model of *Standard of Perfection*, and perhaps no great improvement on that favourite old flower. It is, however, a useful variety, and we may yet see it produced in better condition.
12. *Omar Pacha*.—Large and rather coarse, presenting altogether too flat a surface. Its colour, rich crimson scarlet, very bright and attractive, will, doubtless, ensure for it a certain amount of admiration; but on the whole it can scarcely be deemed equal to the requirements of the present time.

Three other varieties, *Agincourt* (Fellowes), purple; *Beauty of Bath* (Bush), yellow; and *Lady Folkstone* (Keynes), buff, tipped with crimson, should have a place among the foregoing. I have omitted these promising sorts only because I have not seen enough of them to enable me to determine their respective positions with satisfaction to myself.

The expectant fancy dahlias are few in number, and demand no elaborate notice. I am acquainted with four only really deserving of patronage. Of these it may be remarked generally, that they are all

good, all dissimilar, and will all prove welcome acquisitions to those who admire the brilliant eccentricities of this motley tribe.

1. *Miss Frampton* (Rawlings).—Bright red, tipped with white. An exceedingly neat and well built flower, with good centre; constant, if frequency of appearance be any test of that quality. It exhibits, on the whole, a decided advancement upon any of its class.
2. *Baron Alderson* (Perry).—A novelty; colour peculiar orange scarlet, with clear and well-defined white tips; considerably above the average size; petals of good form, and well arranged; centre, close, full, and well up to the surface.
3. *Comet* (Keynes).—A striped variety, cream colour and crimson, shaded with pink; a neat and well-formed flower, of moderate size, considerable depth, and good centre.
4. *Miss Herbert* (Dodds).—Ground colour not easily defined, but not very unlike *Laura Lavington*; the white tips, however appear to be better and more constantly developed. If such be its general character, it must certainly be deemed an improvement on the older variety.

I have selected barely a score from the very large number of seedling dahlias exhibited during the past season. I can testify only of those I have seen; and I am not aware of having omitted to notice any that seem worthy of especial consideration. There may be some few others, unknown to me, whose merits entitle them to a place in the list. I can only regret I have not had the opportunity of examining them. With regard to the relative places I have assigned to each, I cannot expect to have arrived at anything beyond an approximation to the truth; and I am quite prepared to hear that my attempt in that direction meets with universal reprobation. Yes, I can very readily anticipate the running commentary with which the raisers of these flowers—each in his individual case—will enliven the reading of these otherwise dull lines. It will be something to this effect: “Verily this A. S. H., whoever he may be, is taking a little too much upon himself; and yet, confound the fellow! his *general* view of the matter is by no means erroneous. It is only surprising he should be so blind in two or three *particulars*; as

not to discern, for instance, that D is superior to A, and that the positions of C and H ought to be reversed." Well, well! this is all very natural, if not very reasonable; and I can perfectly understand and appreciate the feeling. Oh what an arena of perfection this world of ours would be, if the extraordinary qualities we are apt to attach to our own productions were viewed by others through the same medium as that through which we ourselves behold them! I cannot refrain from transcribing a very old fable, from a very old author, written, evidently, with the purpose of illustrating how strangely mankind differ in their opinions, and how strongly each is attached to his own.

"Jupiter, one day, enjoying himself over a bowl of nectar, and in a merry humour, determined to make mankind a present. Momus was appointed to carry it to them, who, mounted on a rapid car, was presently on earth. 'Come hither,' said he, 'ye happy mortals; great Jupiter has opened for your benefit his all-gracious hands. It is true he made you somewhat short-sighted, but to remedy that inconvenience, behold how he has favoured you.' So saying, he unloosed his portmanteau, when an infinite number of spectacles tumbled out, and were picked up by the crowd with all the eagerness imaginable. There were enough for all: every man had his pair. But it was soon found that these spectacles did not represent objects to all mankind alike; for one pair was purple, another blue, one was white and another was black: some of the glasses were red, some green, and some yellow. In short, they were not only of all manner of colours, and every shade of colour, but they had the strange property that no two of them gave the same form and appearance to things seen through them. However, notwithstanding this diversity, every man was charmed with his own, as believing it to be the truest, and enjoyed in opinion all the satisfaction of reality."

Now, my good sirs, you who feel a parental interest in these beloved productions of your own, and who would keenly resent any slight or affront put upon them, I pray you to remember, one and all of you, that, although I have regarded these pets of yours with the most minute observation, it has not fallen to my lot to examine them *through your spectacles*.

To all those from whom I may be so unfortunate as to differ, I would merely observe, that my conclusions have not been rashly or hastily formed, but are the result of much patient investigation. I avow candidly that I feel a strong desire to assist the choice of the uninitiated: the adept can and will exercise his own judgment, and is perfectly capable of taking good care of himself. The former may safely order all or any of the flowers I have enumerated, and be certain that he has not encumbered himself with a *worthless* variety. My task would be supererogatory, could I persuade myself that no dahlias deserving that epithet will be sent out in the ensuing season. That were indeed a "consummation devoutly to be wished." Should it be realized, the year 1855 will prove a memorable one, in truth an *annus mirabilis* in the records of floriculture.

With that word "floriculture," good and much-enduring reader, did I purpose to conclude this article; but even as I traced the letters which go to its formation, the last stroke of twelve, from the old church tower above me, sounded the knell of a departed year; and while the ink is yet moist, a joyous peal from the same tower heralds the birth of another. As rapidly, my replenished quill again skims the surface of the paper; but *not* again to tax your sorely-tried if not exhausted patience. Guided by a kindlier impulse, its mission is accomplished by the simple record of my sincere aspiration, on your behalf, for "A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

A. S. H.

January 1, 1855.

THE PHILOSOPHY OF FLORISTS' FLOWERS,

[Reprinted from the Florist for 1849]

No. II.

In my last I disposed of the first of the three forms of objection, in which the charge of uselessness is ordinarily brought against the system of fancy flowers.

II. The second objection admits the existence among us of a systematic standard of excellence, not the mere creature of caprice; but repudiates it as bad, on the ground that to admit any such external and common standard at all, it not being founded in nature, is unnaturally to cramp the freedom of taste existing separately and independently in every one. And further, because, by creating a conventional fastidiousness, it restricts instead of augmenting the pleasure derivable from flowers, and fixes our admiration rather on effects produced by art than on the genuine beauties of nature.

This form of objection, or some portion of it, is most frequently used by those who are naturally capable of the highest degree of discrimination, both of beauties and of defects in such matters,—the ladies; and therefore I am not without hope that when I have shown them that their fears are groundless, I shall enlist heartily in our cause some of the ablest supporters of this really interesting science. And that the objection, though specious and less transparently unsound than the former, is wholly imaginary, might not unreasonably be inferred from the universal habit of florists perversely to agree in preferring their bondage to liberty; while yet they ever become more interested in their pursuit the more they occupy themselves in it, and at the same time continue to retain their relish for a hedge violet or a primrose.

Those who plead for ignorance, even though it be ignorance of the properties of a pink, are presumptively in the wrong. Nor will the presumptive evidence in this instance mislead us; for the objection assumes as true what I hope to show unfounded: (1) that there is no external standard of floral excellence in nature, but only in the capricious taste of each beholder; (2) that therefore the established system is of the florist's *making*, not of his finding ready made for him; and (3) that to be bound by it, is to diminish the natural pleasure beneficently given us by the Creator in the works of his creation.

1. With regard to the first assumption, the principal object of these papers is, to trace out from nature, as I hope to do in the subsequent one, that standard which is alleged to have no existence; for there certainly is an external standard of perfection, and that in every species of flower, even though we should never reach it in practice, to see it; because care and cultivation uniformly develope certain qualities, differing in each species, which are only dimly, and perhaps not at all, seen in their wild or natural state. And in those kinds which are technically called florists' flowers, or such as are capable of great diversity in their varieties, by a judicious use of the method of hybridizing, fresh varieties are still produced, more and more developing those qualities in the same direction, and pointing to a yet invisible standard of what, if ever reached, would be the perfection of that particular species.

2. Therefore it follows, that if florists do not unwisely depart from the standard indicated in nature, their requirements are not their own, and they are not answerable for any alleged consequences of their art. It is not they who put restrictions on the admirers of natural beauties, if any such restrictions exist (which, however, they do not), but not even for the appearance of them are they answerable. The work of the florist is simply to follow whither

nature leads him, selecting always that track in which there is the greatest promise of success; and on his judgment in never departing from this, and in using the best means for securing the accomplishment of his desires, depends the correctness of his practical science.

And though mistakes have, of course, been made, and will be made again, in the endeavours after advancement in each particular object of our culture, yet these will become fewer as progress is made in developing the natural powers and characteristic excellences of the plant, whereby the philosophy of its improvement is seen, and we do not work in the dark; because there *is* a system of such development in nature, and a definite point of perfection, the constant approach to which constitutes improvement in each species. And as this is effected by crossing the seed of those varieties which have shown respectively the greatest advances in some particular quality, it is plain there is a substantial truth in the phrase common among florists, "*a high-bred flower.*"

3. As to the third and last assumption, namely, the hardship of being deprived of the power of admiring a wild pansy, and so of losing half the pleasure designed by the Creator,—the matter is not quite fairly stated. I do not think florists generally despise wild flowers in their proper place; with myself I know the very reverse is the fact. I take much more pleasure in them now than I did before I paid attention to their cultivated varieties. And further, I think it will be found, that a wild pansy will be tolerated, and even cherished, by a florist, where a *bad cultivated one*, though much in advance of it in respect of properties, would be consigned with disgust to the pit, as a weed.

Yet it is frankly to be admitted, that an untutored eye may delight in a cultivated specimen, which to the more deeply versed, and therefore fastidious, taste of a connoisseur, would convey unqualified distaste. But that is no more an argument that a

person must sacrifice his pleasure in flowers, by learning to cultivate them, than it is an argument against learning the art of painting, lest the student should lose his admiration of the signs in the streets; or the art of music, lest he should cease to be pleased with the organ of an itinerant. The same argument, indeed, is equally available, and has been often used, against all civilisation generally, and every particular part of it. The fact is, that we are so constituted, that our onward progress in every thing must be clogged with such accompaniments; and he who would have it otherwise, forgets that he is in a world of probation, and discipline, and hardness. We are urged forward only by the goads and spurs of our wants. But who ever regretted the introduction of coffee from Arabia, tea from China, or muslin from India, because the use of these things is inseparably connected with disgust at acorn diet, and at the homespun manufactures of our ancestors? The refinement of our pleasures, in changing their objects, does not necessarily abridge them. Nor, though it were sure to produce a corresponding loss at the other end of the scale, would it lessen by an hairs-breadth the sum of human enjoyment, while assuredly it is capable of a beneficial effect in humanising the man. And therefore I think ladies especially should pause before they find fault with a pursuit which may, in its degree, become subservient to one of the great ends which they themselves are destined to fulfil on our behalf.

IOTA.

[To be continued.]

THE THRIP.—The following will be found an effectual remedy for this destructive insect:—Place the plants in a house, and fill it with the strongest common tobacco smoke, *three nights successively*, syringing them well on the following mornings. The red insect is more easily destroyed than the black one.

REVIEWS.



AN ANALYSIS OF THE BRITISH FERNS AND THEIR ALLIES. By G. W. Francis, F.L.S., author of "The Little English Flora," "Grammar of Botany," "Dictionary of the Arts and Sciences," &c. Fifth Edition, with Engravings, revised and enlarged, by Arthur Henfrey, F.R.S., Professor of Botany, King's College, London. *Simpkin, Marshall, & Co., London.*

To all who possess a love of botany, and particularly to those who love British ferns, as all florists should, we have much pleasure in recommending this very useful little work. Often, while rambling through some of the shady, narrow lanes and by-ways, which are to be found in most country places, have we felt the use of a work of this description.

The introduction contains much valuable information to the young botanist; it explains (to use the author's own words) "all that is known of the internal structure, not only of the indigenous species, but of foreign also; and as it tends to induce in the mind a philosophical knowledge of the plants afterwards detailed," it will be found most "valuable to the student of nature." The illustrative plates are beautifully and accurately executed, by the author; and in most instances the whole plant is figured, which admirably indicates the habit of the different species, and will enable the young botanical Rambler to recognize at a glance the plant before him. We are sorry to find several errors in the references to the plates. For instance, *Pilularia globulifera* is figure 4, plate 7, but the reference, plate 4, figure 10. *Isoetes palustris* is figure 5, plate 7, but no reference is given. Again, in plate 8, *Lycopodium clavatum* is figure 1, the reference being plate 6; also in

plate 8, figures 2, 3, and 4 are referred to plate 5. The characteristic descriptions are scientific and truthful. The habitats are given profusely, and are authenticated by most of our best British botanists. Of the usefulness of the work there is abundant proof, in the call for a fifth edition, which has been revised and enlarged by Professor Henfrey, who has made an addition of several recently discovered species and varieties, and a more complete and accurate account of the reproduction of the ferns and their allies, in the introduction. The technical terms have also been more simplified and made more accurate, and a new plate has been added. The following extract, on the cultivation of hardy ferns, is taken from the appendix:—"Hardy ferns should always have a prepared soil, on a sloping north bank, where they are seen to the greatest advantage. Some of the strong aspidiums will grow in any common soil, where the small species would soon perish. They prefer a shady place, but do not like the drip of trees, nor stagnant water about them. The border or soil should be made of one-fourth coarse grit or river sand, with three parts peat or bog earth, chopped well in pieces, but not sifted. This should be a foot deep. If a very damp place, the border should have a layer of broken brick below, to drain it, if intended for the more choice species; for although *Osmundas*, *Aspidium thelypteris*, and *Blechnum boreale*, will grow in water, they thrive better a small distance off, and you gain the advantage of growing all the species on the same border. Some of the smaller species should be raised on mounds, above the border, to keep them drier; the best way is to place four or five stones edgewise, thereby forming a hollow in the centre, putting a little drainage in the bottom. Small species prefer shallow soil; they are likewise benefited by placing a bell-glass over them, to retain the humidity of the atmosphere. Many of them it is difficult to find situations suitable for,

without covering both in summer and winter; such, for instance, as *Adiantum capillus veneris*; *Asplenium alternifolium*, *viride*, *trichomanes*, *septentrionale*, and *marinum*; *Hymenophyllum Wilsoni* and *Tunbridgense*; *Trichomanes brevisetum*; *Ceterach*, and many small foreign species. Likewise the *lycopodiums*, the hardy species of which may all be grown. *Hymenophyllum* and *Trichomanes* require but little soil; they thrive best on a piece of porous stone, over which has been strewed a little sand. They should always be covered with a glass, and kept very moist and well shaded, being inhabitants of wet dripping rocks. Many of the other small species grow in drier situations, even on sunny walls, but they are always finer in the shade. From such situations they are difficult to remove, owing to the roots penetrating the crevices of the wall or rock, and take a long time to get thoroughly established in a new situation. The *botrychiums* are also removed with difficulty; they require a good drainage."

HINTS FOR THE MONTH.

FLORISTS' FLOWERS.

AURICULAS.—These will be fully in bloom this month; let them be liberally supplied with moisture, not only the plants themselves, but keep moist whatever they may be standing on. This is advisable, not only for the health of the plants, but also prevents dust blowing in among them and destroying the beauty of the trusses. Shade from sun while in flower, or what is better, let them be in some situation where much sun will not reach them; artificial shade is apt to draw them. Frosts must still be guarded against.

CALCEOLARIAS.—Few, comparatively, now grow these; a large proportion seem to have become annuals in character. Ere long we hope to see a more permanent breed. Shade from hot sun; keep a moist and cool atmosphere around them.

CARNATIONS AND PICOTÉES.—By this time these will be in their blooming pots, which should be kept upon some material

impervious to worms. Look over the stock, and secure any that need support. Keep clear of greenfly; this should have been attended to fully at potting time. Water occasionally, if the weather is dry, but they do not require any great quantity as yet; when the pots begin to be filled with roots, it will be a different matter.

CINERARIAS.—These will be at their best this month. Keep them slightly shaded, which will add to their beauty and prolong the duration of the flowers. Look well to greenfly. Give liquid manure, well diluted. Stock propagated now will be found very serviceable for autumn and winter purposes. Seed should be sown with the same object; but if anything really good is expected from seed-sowing, careful selection of *parents* must be resorted to.

DAHLIAS.—Repot without loss of time, using good rich soil, and harden the plants gradually before planting out. Neither an early nor a large plant is absolutely necessary to ensure good blooms; on the contrary, a late-struck plant is preferable to one that has become stunted in its growth. Seedlings must have plenty of room, light, and air, or they will become drawn, and will suffer when they are planted out.

EPACRIS.—The young shoots of those cut back some time since will be benefited by shading from the mid-day sun. Tie out the branches as they advance, and give abundance of air, to produce a strong and vigorous growth.

ERICAS.—These will now be interesting, and require care, both as regards watering and also admission of air, guarding against dust, which spoils the beauty of those varieties to the flowers of which it would adhere. Do not crowd plants in bloom, or those which are growing freely. The beauty of some varieties is much enhanced by shading from mid-day sun.

FUCHSIAS.—Keep these growing as slowly as consistent with the period at which it is desired they should bloom.

HOLLYHOCKS.—Look to those planted out, pressing the soil round any which may require it. A second plantation made now will be found useful for late flowers, and young plants rooted this spring are well adapted for the purpose. Seeds should now be sown in pots or shallow boxes, and placed in a gentle heat; and when well up, remove them to close cold frames.

PANSIES.—Propagation should be attended to this month, the cuttings being kind and healthy; small side shoots are best. Autumn-saved seed should now be sown, to bloom next autumn. Never sow seed to come in bloom during the summer months, or it is difficult to ascertain what they really are.

PANSIES IN POTS.—These must now be encouraged by occasional supplies of liquid manure. Keep as hardy as possible, and prevent their drawing by all known means; but they must still be protected from unfavourable weather.

PELARGONIUMS will now be rapidly advancing towards flowering; before they show colour, give two moderate applications of tobacco smoke. Attend to tying out as required. Towards the end of the month, those intended for exhibition should be protected from bees, which fertilize the flowers, and make them short-lived.

PINKS.—These, if the weather continue dry, will be benefited by water, occasionally using liquid manure. See that they are firm in the ground, and that the stems, as they advance, are secured.

TULIPS.—Protect from the direct rays of the sun, but give full benefit of air. Preserve the blooms from rain, as they advance.

CALENDAR OF OPERATIONS,

FOR MAY.

[*From Rendle's Price Current and Garden Directory.*]

NEARLY all seeds which have been sown under protection may now be finally transplanted into their respective quarters, and no time should be lost to get the ground covered and cropped. Keep always a reserve stock of the various tribes of Brassica ready for transplanting as vacancies occur.

During this month, many of the spring-sown crops will be above ground, and much attention is necessary to repel the attacks of slugs and other enemies. We have found it good practice to strew the ground thickly over with sifted ashes; the slugs are averse to travelling amongst such sharp materials. Lime, too, may be used with benefit, and even sawdust. It is also well to bait for them; a few little heaps of decaying cabbage leaves, grass, &c., will readily attract them. The small hoe must be got to work betimes, choosing a dry period. The utmost cleanliness is now imperatively requisite; if weeds are allowed to prevail during this month, no good gardening may be looked for. Towards the middle of the month, many things esteemed somewhat tender, as tomatoes, gherkins, &c., may be planted out with safety; this will liberate frames for melons and cucumbers. Due attention must be paid to the sowing of broccoli and successions of winter greens, and the pricking out of main crops of celery must have every attention.

Rising crops of all sorts be careful to thin, when young; the first operation should be performed very early, and another may be required when the plants are more advanced. All plants, when allowed to remain thick, run up tall and slender, and seldom succeed well.

PEAS.—Continue to sow for succession some of the best sorts, British Queen, Knight's Marrows, and any of the late tall sorts of marrows; we recommend the tall varieties, from their greater productiveness.

BEANS.—Sow also in the cooler situations Green Windsor.

ENDIVE.—Sow a little seed for early autumn; Green Curled is the best for the present season.

RADISHES.—Continue to sow for succession; where wanted, the turnip radishes succeed best now.

HERBS.—Plant out early-sown sweet marjorum and basil, and make a sowing of each on a warm border.

SEA KALE.—Such as are required for next year's supply, should have the fermenting material removed; and those that require it, should be cut down close, and the crowns thinned.

CABBAGES.—Transplant the spring-sown, eighteen inches apart every way; make another sowing for late autumn use.

VEGETABLE MARROWS.—Plant out the end of the month, on a rich light soil, so that they may grow freely.

CAULIFLOWERS.—Plant from seed beds, and make another sowing.

BROCCOLI.—Continue sowing a little more seed of the later sorts; such as were recommended for last month may still be sown; and a good season for sowing Grange's White, Walcheren, and Early Cape.

BEEF.—Sow in rows, as carrots.

CARDOONS.—Sow now a full crop, in a trench similar to a celery trench, on ground that has been prepared as recommended; put more good rotten manure into the bottom, and sow two inches deep; keep the plants freely growing by frequent application of liquid manure.

KIDNEY BEANS.—Plant for general crop, three or four inches apart, and two feet apart row from row.

CAPSICUM AND TOMATOS may now be planted out against a south wall, if the weather prove fine.

LETTUCES.—Transplant some of the strongest, and sow a little for succession.

SPINACH, if much required, ought to be sown once a fortnight.

TURNIPS.—Hoe and thin such as are fit, and make a fresh sowing.

CARROTS AND PARSNIPS must be thinned as soon as they are large enough.

SCARLET RUNNERS.—Sow for a general crop, the first week in the month, and four feet row from row.

MELONS AND CUCUMBERS require constant attendance, thinning, stopping, and training the vine; also regulate the number of fruit; never allow more than about four fruit on each at a time. Sow Short Prickly, for pickling.

ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.



THE NORTHERN SEEDLING SOCIETY.

“Speak truth and shame the devil.”—SHAKSPERE.

I AM not surprised that the observations so pointedly addressed by Florista, on the prospectus of this society, have not met with any reply. It may probably be accounted for by his shrouding himself under an anonymous signature. However, be it on what grounds it may, his remarks are very apposite and truthful, and until a satisfactory reply has been made, the members and committee of that society must bear the odium of circulating reports which they are unable to substantiate.

Since the appearance of Florista's remarks, I have been favoured with the loan of *Glenny's Garden Almanack*, and its pages have enabled me in part to elucidate the ambiguity of the paragraphs “unprincipled dealers,” “the playing into each others hands by granting certificates,” &c., and to state with some degree of certainty who are the parties so much maligned.

It appears that the wrath of the northern luminaries has fallen upon the members of the National Floricultural Society, and it is clearly evident that the members of the National Carnation and Picotee Society do not escape; and further, that Mr. Glenny endorses the opinions, and fully acquiesces in the animadversions, so illiberally dealt out by the northern florists. That *he* should do so, is no mystery; but that a body of men, residing nearly two hundred miles from the society's meetings, should recklessly promulgate accusations, of which they lack the means of proof, is really remarkable. Any one possessing merely a small degree of common sense would have hesitated ere he had perpetrated such an

outrage on respectable members of society, without indeed some very distinct proof of guilt had been produced; which, in the present instance, is not even alluded to. I should imagine that the concoctors of the prospectus were in a very blissful state of ignorance as to who were the members of the National Floricultural and Carnation and Picotee Societies. Yet a very little inquiry would have informed them that these societies embrace names of the highest respectability, as well as numbering in their ranks the leading florists of the kingdom. I am, however, informed they do not recognize the authority, in floral matters, of a very unhappy individual, who now appears to be a star of some magnitude in the northern hemisphere.

One would have imagined that the importance of a "national" was of itself a sufficient guarantee for the honesty of its awards, and that the judgment of its censors would not have been questioned; however, to prove the degree of veracity there is in the accusations made against the partiality of the censors, I have ventured to add the names of some of the carnations, picotees, and pinks (the only flowers I cultivate) which have been recommended to public notice by these societies, and the readers of the *Midland Florist* will be able to form their own opinion as to what amount of confidence can be placed in the assertion that these varieties are "worthless."

The flowers I would more particularly allude to are,—in carnations, Puxley's General Monk, Jenny Lind, and King of Carnations, May's Owen Glendower and Falconbridge, Haines's Black Diamond, Ward's Sarah Payne, Cradley Pet, May's Justice Shallow, Christopher Sly, Exit, Poor Tom, and King John; and in picotees, Dodwell's Alfred, Hollyoake's Duke of Rutland, Marris's Victoria Regina, Costar's Cristabel, Fellowes's Prince Arthur, Ganymede, Haidee, Countess, and Diadem, Norman's Mrs. Norman, May's Ophelia, Matthews's Bridesmaid, Garratt's

King of Purples, May's Finis, Headly's King James, Venus, and Mrs. Headly, and Hoyle's Mrs. Hoyle and Alice.

Amongst the pinks, the following are highly commended, and some have been awarded first-class certificates, viz., Optima, Colchester Cardinal, Esther, Sarah, and Perfection; Bragg's Koh-i-Noor, James Hogg, and Sir Joseph Paxton; Maclean's Criterion, New Criterion, Adonis, and Brunette.

It is not a little singular that Mr. Glenny, in his Advice to Amateurs, contained in his Almanack for 1854, should recommend them to save seed from several varieties enumerated in the above list!

The promoters of the Northern Seedling Society state as one of their objects, their desire to be "a powerful protector of the professional gardener and the amateur florist." It is very desirable that this should be realized, and I sincerely hope that no *third-rate* flowers will for the future be passed off as the very best of their class. In proof that this is no exaggeration, I beg to say that Slater's Gladiator was advertised in the *Midland Florist* as the very best crimson bizarre carnation ever raised, and was sold at one guinea per pair; but, during the next season, it was beaten by some of our oldest flowers. Another *take-in* was Jackson's Lamartine, light-edged purple picotee, which was sent out with a high character, and at half a guinea per pair, but I was so disgusted with it when it bloomed, that I did not deem it worth propagating.

In conclusion, I must be permitted to say, that the southern florists can and do appreciate a good flower, wherever it is raised, whether in the north, south, east, or west. It is not the locality, but the flower, that is prized; but, to guard against imposition, it is certainly not unwise either to be wary or careful.

H.

Leicester, April, 1855.

It would be very desirable, if any cultivator of the pansy, dahlia, and other flowers not noticed in these

observations, would prepare a list of such as have been favourably noticed by the National Floricultural Society, to test the truth of the accusation, whether such flowers are really "*worthless*."—H.

[Our correspondent appears to be unaware that the offensive paragraphs in the prospectus alluded to, were copied from a publication of Mr. Glenney's. That Mr. Glenney, with the tact of an Old Bailey practitioner, should subsequently quote his own reproduced assertions as independent evidence, is not at all singular. That any gentlemen should be deluded by assertions so barefaced and so palpably untrue, is certainly suprising. Probably this statement will lead our correspondent to regard the gentlemen in question as subjects rather for his pity than his anger, but we hope, under any circumstances, we shall not again have to animadvert upon such delusions.—ED.]



TULIP CULTURE.

I DOUBT not but that the kind and liberal invitation of Mr. Headly has been warmly appreciated by cultivators of the tulip, and that many visiting the national tulip exhibition have been highly pleased with the inspection of his collection. To his cordial invitation Mr. H. appends some remarks, which, if not confuted, may lead the tulip cultivator into error. He says that, "except by some deleterious agent, you cannot kill tulips"—"Wet will not kill them." Now I can assure Mr. H. and all who cultivate tulips, that nothing is so deleterious to them as wet, stagnant, and badly drained soil. I have known several instances in which collections have been almost wholly destroyed, and which thorough investigation proved *clearly* to be the effect of defective drainage. I grew my tulips but indifferently, until three years ago, when, on the same spot, I took out the soil to a depth of three feet, and laid a drain below, since which I

have had a fine bloom each season; and for two years, out of a bed of sixty rows, the only bulb lost was a very unhealthy one of Violet Quarto. Last autumn, I found it necessary to lengthen my bed, which I did on the same plan. It now numbers one hundred rows, *not a bulb of which has missed coming*, and they look as promising as ever I saw a bed. I may add, that my bulbs always take up sound and healthy, and that the increase is above the average.

Every one who desires to cultivate the tulip with success, should have impressed on his mind the absolute necessity of good drainage. The drain should be from two and a half to four feet deep, below the bulbs, and a clear outlet for the water should be provided. I attach more importance to this matter than to everything else connected with the cultivation of the tulip. If properly attended to, we can scarcely fail to grow them well,—if neglected, all our care may meet with disappointment.

Although an opinion formed by a person but partially acquainted with the facts of the case may be of little worth, yet I am strongly impressed with the opinion that the losses, both of the growers in your neighbourhood and Mr. Headly, during the nineteen years of his experience, have arisen from one cause, and that cause defective drainage, which has killed its thousands and tens of thousands of tulip bulbs. One cannot wonder at the yearly losses of Mr. H., and that occasionally he loses thirty or forty rows at one end of his bed (Query, is it the lower end?), when he holds such opinions as “wet will not kill them.”

O.

Manchester.

A SUGGESTION.

MR. EDITOR—Now that our energies are fairly in operation appears to me to be a favourable oppor-

tunity for making a proposal which, in my opinion, is calculated to increase the attractions of our already favourite periodical. I refer to the compilation of a tabular statement, exhibiting at one view the number of prizes obtained by different varieties of florists' flowers, during the season; and I feel more desirous that such a compilation should be made, as I see no signs of the resumption of that useful work the *Floral Register*.

To be of interest and value, this compilation should be made at the earliest possible moment after the closing of the exhibitions of the several florists's flowers; and the returns should, of course, embrace every show with any claim to importance, whether of a local, district, or national character.

I do not think this compilation should supersede, or in any way interfere with the reports of shows, as heretofore given, but it is of the utmost consequence that these reports should be forwarded immediately after the holding of the exhibitions, and not be delayed until the close of the season, as has been the case in several instances, of late years. To ensure attention to this, it would be well if some stated days were fixed for receiving the reports of the exhibitions of the different flowers. And as this suggestion, if carried out, will add somewhat to your labour, I beg to say, that I shall be happy to render any assistance in my power to relieve it. I have also permission to offer the services of my friend, Mr. Hollyoake, for the same purpose.

ROBERT MARRIS.

Leicester.

[We are particularly obliged to our friends, Mr. Marris and Mr. Hollyoake, for the liberal offer of their valuable services. We believe the proposition will be highly acceptable to florists, and we trust that the secretaries of societies, on all sides, will so furnish us with returns of the awards made, that the result may be as useful as it undoubtedly will be interesting. To be of use, however, we must have the reports

from all quarters, not from one or two only, and they must reach us not later than as under, viz. :

Auriculas—July 1st.
Tulips—July 15th.
Pinks—August 15th.
Ranunculuses—August 15th.

Carnations and Picotees—
September 15th.
Dahlias—October 15th.
Hollyhocks—October 15th.
Pansies—October 15th.

Ed.]

THE BREEDER TULIP.

IF it be a fact that man is a progressive as well as a social intelligence, yet at the same time an imperfect being, ever making mistakes and ever liable to change, as time and history furnish abundant proof, look from whatever point you may, theologically, morally, politically, or scientifically,—at one time lauding to the skies an object or principle which at another time is trampled beneath his feet in utter contempt; if, I say, it be that man, who stands at the head of the lower creation, is in reality so mutable and imperfect, and yet claims the high and distinguished character of a progressive as well as a social being, are there not three grand points at least claiming the attention of all scientific men viewing our species in so auspicious a light, namely, first, to originate or discover must be with him a cardinal point; secondly, to correct what is wrong must be to do good service in our day and generation; and thirdly, we are called to improve or carry to the highest state of perfection whatever has been already discovered or originated. Now, although I may not be able to give to the world any important discovery or very valuable origination of my own, if I happily scatter to the winds any error now existing in the science of horticulture, for which I have so passionate a regard, or if I can but push forward by one iota that which has taken a right direction, I shall be amply compensated for the exertion made. It is to the first of

these two matters I would beg to call attention, and that in regard to the error existing as to the real value of the breeder tulip, that I may, if possible, show the very great mistake under which we have been labouring hitherto as florists. Up to a very recent date, the breeder has been looked upon by many eminent florists with indifference, nay almost with disgust, and even to this day the breeder is sold at one-third (or less) of the price asked for one of the same variety in a fine feathered state. Such being the fact with men who profess to know something of the philosophy of tulip breaking or rectifying, as it is called, I ask how is the amateur or mere beginner to understand this mystified case? Now, for illustration, we will take Polyphemus, a tulip known to almost every grower, and I ask the man who possesses it in the finest feathered strain, does he ever expect it to go back to what is called a solid breeder? or when it does fly from the fine feather (than which, few are more apt), will he look for a first-rate flamed flower, with nicely branched beam and unbroken feather? If so, it is ten to one he has something from which he turns away in disappointment,—a piebald nondescript, worthless for years, if not as long as he grows it. Here we see that should he have given five or ten pounds for the finest feathered Polyphemus, he never can obtain from it the solid breeder, which is, beyond all doubt, the finest of breeders (that is the true one). We see also that he is not likely to be cheered from that source with the sight of a perfect flame. Only from the breeder can we have the three classes. Now if this be so, and I think no one dare contradict it as a general rule, if I can obtain from a breeder the finest flame and also the most perfect feather, but cannot have any certainty of doing so from either of the other, then the breeder, in reality, must be the most valuable; but more, it is so for other reasons, and for this not the least, that in the breeder state it is most healthy and prolific, so much so that if I

take a root of the finest feathered strain, and one of the same in the breeder state, of equal size, and grow them side by side for three or four years, at the end of that period, the fine feathered root will have made one or two half-grown roots (or it may be more—not unfrequently less), but what are the probable chances from the breeder? these,—that I have tenfold increase, and the great probability of a fine break or two, both feathered and flamed. Now we will suppose that the feathered strain remained steady all the while, would it not be natural for the grower to ask, how am I to understand this apparent blunder? for the breeder I only paid five shillings, by which I have a stock more than ten times the value of that for which I paid five pounds. By this I do not wish to insinuate that the seller of the roots intended to cheat, I only wish to show that we have been, as florists, far out at sea on the matter, and that such is my estimation of a solid breeder (for in no other state would I thank anyone for it), that I think it vastly superior to any break, except of the finest order, and for this further reason, the person possessing a breeder of first-rate properties, however fine it may have been broken by his neighbour, may possibly break it still finer. Besides which, there is another property in breeders, not generally known, which is, that while in the breeder state they will both alter in colour and shape, so that when rectified, they give us another of that kind of tulip, instances of which I shall be happy to show any one who will call on me. From what I have said, I do not wish to be understood to mean, that the amateur who wishes to grow a bed of rectified flowers only, is wrong in giving a high price for a first-rate break, but I do say that an indifferent strain is next to worthless, and infinitely below the breeder, especially to a person who has convenience for growing a bed of them, as well as one of rectified flowers. Many years ago, I was delighted by seeing a drawing of the celebrated Fanny Kemble tulip, and have often wished to see it

bloomed as there represented. I have, this season, obtained a root in the breeder and one in a broken state, from our respected friend, Mr. Goldham, of Mitcham. Now, although I have no doubt that they are both correct, yet, for the reasons already stated, I look upon the breeder root as decidedly the most valuable. Again, fine as the rectified flower of Sir Joseph Paxton was, as shown by Mr. Wood, at Regent's Park, in May last (which is the only break of it yet known, and for which Mr. Wood asks ten pounds, full-sized roots), who can tell what shall break from the breeders of that superb flower, which are now in distribution? In reality then, the breeder is of more intrinsic value than such a break as the one alluded to. Another flower shown at Regent's Park, which justly drew forth the admiration of all, was the Queen of the North, or Catherine. This flower, in such a state, is extremely shy of increase. My friend, Mr. Hart, of Stockport, from whom I had a root of the finest strain, says, in his note with it, "it is now about twelve years since I bought a root in the breeder state. This bloomed with me in the finest feathered character, and when taken up it had two bulbs, but has never increased since more than one offset." I ask, would it not have been of more value had it remained a breeder for some years, that my friend might have got a stock of it, both in a breeder as well as a rectified state. Having said thus much, let me hope that I may have removed from the minds of some a positive error, that is, that the breeder is an inferior tulip, and that I have clearly shown that it has points of pre-eminence over the finest rectified one. If by this I may lead some to the cultivation of this class, who have hitherto despised rather than esteemed it, I shall be amply repaid.

WILLIAM WILLISON.

Rose Nursery, Whitby, March 15th, 1855.

[Does not our friend rather overlook the point that breeder tulips are grown as a means to a certain end,

that end being the production of fine *rectified* flowers? The greater fertility of the breeder is an important consideration, one probably, which has had too little attention; but as a specimen, the breeder, according to floristic canon, must take rank vastly in arrear of the finely broken flower. We throw this out,—not as one “having authority,” to which indeed we make no claim, but for the consideration of our friend and his readers.—ED.]



CURRENT EVENTS.

WITHOUT at all proposing to report on all I see, it is my desire to register, from time to time, those particulars which an observant florist should set down in his tablets, and which may interest those of your readers possessing fewer facilities than your *London correspondent* for joining in a close and critical inspection, under a variety of circumstances and in widely separate districts, of those subjects yclept florists' flowers, together with such other “novelties and new things” as it may be my duty to record as of value for decorative or exhibitional purposes. In thus essaying I would wish it to be distinctly understood, that I do so with a desire to engage the attention of others who, like myself, see the *flowers of the day*, that they may be imbued with a similar desire to make the *Midland Florist*, or other of the floral periodicals, the medium by which publicity may be given to current events in connection with floriculture.

Camellia Miss Nightingale, as exhibited at the National Floricultural Society, on the 23rd of March, by Mr. D. Thompson, of Dyrham Park, Barnet, Herts, was alone worth a journey from Derby to see; a flower of circular outline and of full size, although somewhat flat; petal of good bold form, and very stout; colour pinkish blush, with occasional stripes and blotches of deeper pink; foliage nearly round,

ample, of an olive green colour, and of a commendable short-jointed growth. As it was stated there were sixteen plants just formed, we may hope soon to hear of its advent. *Camellia Duchess of Newcastle* may be safely added to the most careful collection. It has been questioned by high authorities in scientific horticulture whether camellias belong to the range of florists' flowers. Now I will not, in this place, stay to canvass the argument; enough it is for me to know that florists have done camellias good service, and therefore I should not hesitate to lift the gauntlet, be the tilting ground where it may. Not a florists' flower indeed! We shall doubtless next be told that *Rhododendrons*, *Azaleas*, *Ericas*, *Epacrises*, *Acacias*, and suchlike hard-wooded denizens of our greenhouses and pleasure grounds, are not florists' flowers; yet why not so, as well as pinks and pansies, I fail to understand. I shall ever consider that a fitting subject for a florist to claim as his own which, by seeding, he has improved and domesticated. Having touched on *Acacias*, let me say, *the* one all should strive to obtain is *Drummondii*; a graceful and free-flowering greenhouse plant, as yet not freely in commerce, although not high-priced, nice plants being to be had for seven shillings and sixpence. *Boronia Drummondii*, as a decided acquisition to exhibitors of greenhouse collections, must not be unsought. Its flowers are of a deep rich rose, some shades deeper than the better known *B. pinnata*, which is again many shades deeper than *B. tetrandra*, but all of similar habit. I make reference to the habit, because these three are so dissimilar to *B. serulata*, a well-known exhibition plant, and ever taking part in our best collections. Mr. G. Smith, of the Tollington Nursery, Hornsey-road, Holloway, has shown two very nice cinerarias,—the one, *Wonder*, rosy purple, with narrow circle of white at base of petals, around the best dark disk I ever remember to have seen; the second, called *Model*, possesses points of recommendation.

On the 26th of April, a fine display awaited the coming of the good folks of Oxford, at their Town-hall, and a full company did the committee the honour to assemble. Auriculas were not in full flower, so late is the season everywhere; and pansies gave telling evidence of frostbite; yet withal, the three stands staged did the growers every credit for painstaking; nor were the flowers without marked interest, each collection containing several of the latest novelties. This is what I, for one, delight to observe; and the grower who early obtains his plants of new things, needs must always be in advance on exhibition days. These novelties contrasted strongly with the antique varieties of pelargoniums staged on the same day. Forget-me-not, Sylph, Duke of Cornwall, and similar antiquated subjects might safely give room for more modern and *better* strains. Quality must win, as the cinerarias, at the show now under notice exemplified beyond dispute. A nicer half-dozen plants than those comprising the first collection man need not crave; sorts, new and good, and sufficiently large to serve all purposes. Sir C. Napier, Lady Paxton, and Lady Camoys were of the group. Of calceolarias, Heywood Hawkins, a National certified variety, although some three seasons old, yet claims supremacy, and deservedly so; it is free, bold, and distinct. To growers of the verbenas, and such as may be seeking them for bedding-out purposes, I recommend Wonderful (Turner), Lord Raglan (G. Smith), and Mrs. Woodroffe (Henderson). They will not disappoint the most critical.

Mr. Turner, Slough, has several good pansies. Of them, Perfection, Constellation, Admiral Napier, Sir W. Scott, and Crimson Perfection are sure to make standard varieties. We still are in want of white ground pansies; it would seem that all run on yellow ground sorts, but the truth is, the greater progress of this class is so marked, that many flowers get propagated because they are really good, though less distinct than might be desirable. The odds on

yellow against white ground pansies must be fully fifty to one; even dark selfs overrun white ground varieties. Do all growers possess Memnon, of the dark class? Delay not in getting it, if without. It may be worth recording, and as a fact, may claim a brief notice, that while we boast yellow ground pansies *ad infinitum*, and I might say in *perfection*, we are yet without other than second-class yellow selfs; whilst as to white selfs, they are scarcely worth the space they occupy, where grown, though of dark selfs we have many.

Some of the Sikkim rhododendrons seem disposed to flower this season,—Edgworthii having been shown at the National, 21, Regent-street.

From the seedling cinerarias already staged, I assume that we shall have some valuable additions. Turner's Emperor of the French is fine, rosy crimson with white ring and brown disk. Rose of England, purple and white. Ledgard's Brilliant, in the way of Lady Camoys, may improve by cultivation. Turner's Magnum Bonum is by its name a mixture of truth with fiction, it is *great*, but not *good*; colour dull rosy purple. These were shown at the National, on the 26th of April, and at the Royal South London floricultural exhibition, on the 2nd of May, where a good display was made: at this latter show, Mr. Turner had auriculas very fine, considering the adverse character of the season. His pansies were superb, both plants and cut flowers, and his cinerarias perfect specimens, both as to cultivation and the varieties comprising his collection. In pansies, Messrs. Dobson & Son also displayed fine examples. Of miscellaneous stove and greenhouse plants, there were four fine collections, each of fifteen plants, by our leading metropolitan exhibitors, together with several fine single specimens. This brings me to the exhibition of the Royal Botanic Society, on the 9th of May, a day that should have a chapter to itself, so fine were most things there. I have seen more at their May meeting, but it appeared that only the

mediocre had been kept away. Early in the day, and long ere the censors had made their awards, the exhibition was honoured by the presence of Her Majesty, Prince Albert, the Prince of Wales, Prince Alfred, and a splendid retinue of notables. They were present nearly an hour and a half, and closely inspected all. Turner's twelve pelargoniums, the *first* prize, and from the Royal Nursery, obtained Her Majesty's marked notice, and as if to pass from the sublime to the ridiculous, a collection of cut mimuluses (monkey flowers), by Mr. Gaines, of Battersea, arrested the royal attention. At the royal exit gate, on a grassy bank (not an inappropriate spot for alpine plants), was a collection of thirty finely grown auriculas, by Mr. C. Turner; the beauty of which long attracted the attention of H.R.H. Prince Albert, who, lingered over them for some time before the royal party left the floral paradise,—for such it is. Well may the Royal Botanic claim the palm of excellence for their artistic arrangement.

We have yet to learn what influence, the severe frost of the show morning, may have had on the orchids and other stove plants produced; midland and northern florists will feel with me for those enthusiastic men who are compelled by distance to start from their hothouses, at midnight, with the glass, out of doors, showing twelve degrees of frost. Such it was at Barnet, on the morning of the May Park show; even in the gardens, at Regent's Park, the universally-respected curator told me two degrees of frost were registered, and the tilts of the vans arrived covered with hoar frost. Ere the day closed, sorry tokens were noticeable of the evil resulting from the rapid transition from heat to cold. Of all garden structures none can be more occasionally useful than a nice *north* house, but at present such must be *to let*, no retarding having been requisite. Nature seems slow to "move on". Not so, however, with the gardener, whose love of progress was illustrated in the memorable display at Gore House, of which I will give you a little detail in my next.

GROUPING OF FLOWERS.

AMONGST the pleasures presented to us by the culture of flowering plants, there are few that exceed what we experience from the sight of a multitude of flowers, varying in their colour, form, and size, and in their arrangement upon the stem that supports them. It is probably owing to the admiration bestowed individually upon each, and to the attachment felt for them in consequence of the great care they have required, that pains have hitherto not been taken to arrange them in such a manner as to produce the best possible effect upon the eye, not only separately, but also collectively. Nothing, therefore, is more common than a defect of proportion observed in the manner in which flowers of the same colour are made to recur in a garden. At one time, the eye sees nothing but blue or white, at another, it is dazzled by yellow scattered around in profusion. The evil effect of a predominating colour may be further augmented, when the flowers are of approximating, but still different shades of colour.

That an assortment of complementary colours is never disagreeable is a truth that has long been known to many of our best gardeners and amateurs, and that the brilliancy of colours is considerably increased by employing one colour complementary to another side by side. The principal rule to be observed in the arrangement of flowers, is to place the blue next to the orange, and the violet next to the yellow, whilst red and pink flowers are never seen to greater advantage than when surrounded by verdure and by white flowers; the latter may also be advantageously dispersed amongst groups formed of blue and orange, and of violet and yellow flowers. For, although a clump or bed of white flowers may produce but little effect when seen apart, it cannot be denied that the same flowers must be considered as indispensable to the adornment of a garden, when they are seen suitably distributed amongst groups of flowers whose colours have been assorted according

to the law of contrast. White flowers suitable for grouping with some of our best bedding plants are, however, not sufficiently plentiful, but by having recourse to some of the finely variegated-leaved plants, we are enabled to produce some very beautiful and well-contrasted groups. One of the best and most useful of variegated-leaved plants is Mangles's Variegated Geranium; its half-trailing habit and beautifully-marked foliage well adapt it for bedding purposes. I may here just observe, there are several strains of this geranium, some of them being much more variegated than others. If care be taken, when propagating, to select only those shoots the leaves of which are highly variegated, no one will be disappointed with this variety. When intermixed with Scarlet Defiance or Beauty Supreme Verbena, few beds are more beautiful; or it is equally at home when surrounding a mass of Purple Unique, Tom Thumb, Punch, or any other of the free-flowering scarlet geraniums. Flower of the Day and Mountain of Light are both fine varieties, and make beautiful beds, either upon grass or gravel. If upon grass, an edging of Defiance Verbena will improve the appearance. Another useful little plant is the Variegated Alyssum. This will be found to make an admirable edging to a bed of Double Purple Jacobæa (the dark variety), or to Purple King Verbena. A bed of scarlet and white may be composed of Lobelia fulgens and Shrubland White Petunia intermixed, and a band of Brillante de Vaise Verbena. The spikes of lobelia flowers overtopping the petunia have a pretty effect. Another very pretty and highly fragrant bed may be produced by planting the centre with Mrs. Bosanquet Rose, and around it Geant des Batailles, surrounding both with mignonette. Mignonette also forms a good edging to a bed of well-selected German Stocks. Salvia patens, when well done, is one of our most beautiful blue-flowering plants, and when combined with Calceolaria amplexicaule or C. augustifolia, a very gay blue and yellow bed is produced. Clarkia pulchella and

C. pulchella alba, when blended together, make a pretty pink and white bed. Again, a bed of fancy geraniums, composed of the following varieties, *Diadematum* in the centre, with an outer row of *Statuiski*, *Decora*, *Sidonia*, *Nosegay*, and *Lady Flora Hastings*, with a band or edging of blue, yellow, purple and white pansies planted alternately, will produce an effect pleasing to the most fastidious.

Numerous other examples might be given, but the above will suffice to illustrate the principle to be observed. Whether the garden be large or small, or whatever may be the character of the stock with which it is intended to be filled, it is alone necessary to remember—that the effect of each colour is enhanced by employing that which is complementary immediately about it. Strict attention to the heights, habits, and modes of flowering of different plants is, of course, imperative, and the effect to be produced will greatly depend on their suitability for their several situations. In all cases, before commencing with planting out in the flower garden, a careful study of the proposed arrangement should be made, and its assumed effect be well matured; and in every case, whilst strict attention should be given to the subordinate details, each should subserve the one purpose of producing an harmonious whole.

J. BAYLEY.

EXTRACTS, HINTS, AND RECOLLECTIONS.



THE PHILOSOPHY OF FLORISTS' FLOWERS.

[*Reprinted from the Florist for 1849*]

No. III.

I HOPE you are a botanist. I know some eminent florists who are so, and more than one really good botanist who duly appreciates floriculture. But as

the agriculturist is proverbially a despiser of his garden, because of the larger results he is accustomed to deal with in his farm, so is it oftentimes with the botanist, and therefore I must have a word with him.

III. His objection is not likely to become general, because it involves some labour to be bestowed on the subject before its force will be perceived, But yet I have heard it oftener than might be expected; probably because the outlines of every science are now so generally known. It is to the effect, that floriculture (I mean that of fancy flowers) is, as a study, a *descent* from nature, and a degradation to it; and as an art, is essentially unscientific, and fit only for children. Our whole system, he says, is conversant about *varieties*—things of small account in any case; while such as we covet ought not to exist at all, departures as they are, he says, from nature, and interferences with the habits of the plants.

That these charges should be made in good faith, by those who only see floriculture from their supercilious distance, is not surprising, since there is an appearance of truth in them; but that they will not stand examination will be admitted by those who maintain that there is a foundation for the preceding remarks. However, they require, and they deserve, a more particular notice appropriated to themselves.

It is not contended that the labours of the florist ought to be placed in the same rank with those of the botanist. We do not pretend that our pursuit is not of an inferior order to his; indeed it arises out of, and is dependant on it. But we cannot allow that it is either unnatural or unscientific; nor even that its own pecliar science, in the smaller area to which it is confined, is not to the full as perfect and as pure as that of botany. The comprehensive survey of nature is his; the improvement of a few of the units out of his catalogue is ours; and to inquire into the best method of doing this may be found to demand scientific knowledge as high as that

required for the more extended field of observation in discriminating between orders and genera, and the resemblances and differences of plants.

Few who had not previously paid attention to the subject can have read Mr. Story's interesting articles, in your preceding numbers, on the hybridization of the erica, without perceiving that, for the successful pursuit of that practice, more of knowledge, and thought, and judgment, as well as of skill and patience, is required than he expected; that less is due to chance, and more to system; that a collection of facts, and a comparison of results are needed; and arising out of this, a suitable variation of method, according to circumstances; in other words, that it demands a scientific adaptation of means to produce a desired end. And it will presently be my business to show that this desired end itself is equally founded on physical facts, and reducible to rule; and that the alterations sought by florists in the petals and habits of certain flowering plants are no more open to the objections of the scientific botanist than they are to those which have already been considered.

Neither is it justly alleged that either the end, or the means used to attain it, are *unnatural*. We are told, for instance, that the many thousand varieties of our roses are, botanically, the same individual under so many thousands of fantastic dresses, and none of them natural, or conducive to the welfare of the species, or the more perfect development of its parts. On the contrary, that the greater number of them can never perfect their seeds, owing to the production of double flowers by the conversion of stamens into petals. This might have some weight, but that it entirely rests on a fallacy, which it is of some importance to notice. The rose was not *made for itself*, nor is its place in creation only to produce seeds or to propagate its kind. It is a misunderstanding of the goodness of the Creator to overlook the fact, that, like ourselves and every other part of God's works, it was made for others as well as itself;

and that one part of its design was, to please the eye of the beholder, as of fruits to please the palate of the eater. Why else the otherwise useless enlargement of the petals of many, their elegant forms, their varied and brilliant colours? No one can say that any of these things minister, except in a small and questionable degree, to the welfare of the plant or of its seeds, any more than the grateful scent of the mignonette or of the violet does to theirs, or the lusciousness of the drupe, of the apricot, or of the peach, does to theirs. These additions to the necessary parts of fructification were for the sole advantage of others; those that please the eye or the smelling, seem to have been made for the sole pleasure of man; and it appears to have been the purpose of God, in them, to minister to his gratification alone. And if some species of flowers are found by experience to be capable of developing by cultivation greater powers of pleasing the eye than are possessed by the uncultivated natural specimen, there is nothing *unnatural* in pushing that development as far as it will go, and thus bringing forth into light, the extent to which it was meant to fulfil that particular purpose of its creation.

That the arts used for this purpose are not unnatural, may be seen in the analogous instance of cultivated fruits. The apple, for instance, is one of those trees "whose seed is in itself." Around that seed is a fleshy envelope, pleasant to the eye, fragrant to the smell, and good for food; none of which qualities add to the perfection or security of the seed, but are intended for the use and gratification of men and animals. But this is not so with all the produce of those seeds of the tree, or any thing like it. Sow the seeds, and under the most favourable circumstances, not above one in five hundred of the plants that spring from them can be expected to be worth cultivating for its own fruit. Are all the rest then useless? By no means. They are for an important purpose in the economy of man's sustenance from

the fruits of the field. They undergo (by grafting) an operation much more startlingly unnatural, at first view, than is the hybridization of the erica; and the crabstock is made to sustain the bearing wood of choicer kinds, instead of its own—

Miraturque novas frondes et non sua poma : *—

while the plants that spring from the successful seeds become the parents of new varieties, as numerous as those of the ranunculus or the pelargonium. This apparently unnatural process is both natural and necessary. And as the time when it was first practised is hidden in the mists of the remotest antiquity, and as it was anciently in use among nations unconnected with each other, and as each ascribed the discovery to its founder or to some god, it is probable that it was taught of God to our first father, when the original curse upon the ground and all its productions, for man's sin, made labour the condition of his bread!

This is rendered the more probable by the distinct claim made in Isaiah (xxviii. 23-29), for the teaching of the art of husbandry to man by the Creator,—an art which supplies us with a still stronger instance in point than the foregoing.

The most useful, or rather necessary, of all vegetable productions to man, the *cerealia* (plants which produce the "breadstuffs" of the American vocabulary), appear to be almost all of them of the class most abhorrent to the botanist—*hybrids*. At least, the native original of many of them is, I believe, unknown, and of others would not be recognized, except by a botanist. Cultivation during the course of four thousand years, and a care bestowed upon improving the seed, like that which the florist practises upon the fuchsia or the calceolaria, have made them what they now are. There can, therefore, be nothing unnatural in the art which has brought into being, or at least to its present state of perfection, the staff of human life.

*" And wonders at the strange foliage, and fruit not its own."

And if the end aimed at in improving the petals of a dianthus be of less importance to the welfare of man than in improving the seed of a carex, yet the mode by which it is effected being the same in both cases, what is right in the one case cannot be wrong in the other. If it is not unnatural in the fruit, neither is it in the flower. That art is in perfect analogy with all the other consequences of our condition as children of Adam,—a condition which requires at our hands a laborious compulsion of nature to yield up to our importunities the riches it is entrusted with for our use.

IOTA,

[To be continued.]



NEW BEDDING PLANTS.

WE believe the best bedding plant of the season will be *Calceolaria Purity*, a free-growing variety, of dwarf shrubby habit, throwing a profusion of pure snow-white flowers. It appears to be all that a bedding plant should be; and as good white bedding plants are so much needed, it will be found a valuable addition. It is also a handsome plant for conservatory decoration. *Calceolaria Eclipse* is the brightest-coloured variety we have seen, having more of a scarlet colour than any other; and from what we saw of it last year, is a decided acquisition in merit. Messrs. E. G. Henderson & Son have some *new* shrubby varieties, but we have not seen them.

In verbenas, *Wonderful* is the most useful and novel variety of the season. The colour is rich plum purple, with a very large clear white centre, dwarf robust habit, large truss, and a first-rate variety for beds. *Blue Beard* is really a blue verberna—not a blue-purple, as we have hitherto had. It makes a lovely bed, and is a good grower. *Lady Lacon*, rose, with a large yellow centre, most compact erect habit, with a well-formed truss, most valuable for bedding

out. In the three varieties above named, compactness of habit will be found, and we regard this as a very desirable feature in bedding verbenas. Of other new ones, Commander-in-Chief, bright cerise, with yellow eye; Empress of France, large pale rose; Florence Nightingale, pink, large yellow eye; Rose of England, beautiful bright rosy pink, with large yellow eye; and Tyrian Prince, deep blue purple and a noble flower; will all be found valuable. There are still other new verbenas, that we believe to be first-rate—such as Boule de Feu, bright orange scarlet, lemon eye, and Violacea, an intense violet-coloured flower, in the way of M. Paquin, but much better. Of Mrs. Woodroffe we can say but little. A truss of this variety, as seen last year, was the most remarkable we ever saw; the colour deep scarlet, and each pip six-eighths of an inch in diameter. It is evidently a seedling from Robinson's Defiance, but with, we fear, a coarser habit. However, as it is sent out at a very cheap rate, we should recommend purchasers to order it, and give it a trial.

If there are any other new bedding plants possessing more than ordinary merit, that are not included in our remarks, it is because they have not come under our notice.

Of older varieties, Verbenas King of Scarlets and Purple King are two valuable varieties; Calceolaria Golden Cap, a dwarf, shrubby, dull crimson, with a bright yellow cap, is very showy and attractive. Golden Chain is also a good dwarf, shrubby yellow variety, growing from the centre, as in Sulphurea splendens. Prince of Orange deserves to be extensively cultivated. It is of very dwarf branching habit, blooming very freely; in colour dull orange, but makes a bright bed, and stands the weather well. Wellington Hero is also one of the very best yellows. In scarlet geraniums with variegated foliage, Osborn's Brilliant is a gem, a dense bloomer, and as scarlet as Tom Thumb, with variegated foliage in the way of Mangles's Variegated. It is very probable a splendid

new variety, in the way of Flower of the Day, but with much better foliage and rich scarlet flowers, will be sent out in the autumn, if it prove what is anticipated. It is named Alma.

Phlox General Radetsky will no doubt make a beautiful bed, as it is a free-growing striped variety of Drummondi, but much brighter in colour than Mayi; it is a very beautiful variety. Lantana Camerone, bright orange, and close stiff habit, is also a good bedding plant; and the Scarlet Ivy-leaf Geranium is also a very serviceable plant for baskets, rockwork, or beds; but to have it in perfection the plants should be struck the previous summer. We purpose paying attention this season to various novelties, and testing their adaptability to bedding purposes, and shall report upon them at the close of the season.

The Florist.

PINKS—THIRTY-SIX NORTHERN VARIETIES.

PURPLE-LACED.

Jones's Huntsman
Taylor's Mango
Guido (new this season)
Taylor's Captain Reeves
Simmonite's Coronation
Attractive
Buckley's Glory
Auckland's Mary
Hand's Pilot
Bradshaw's Greensides
Raynor's Flying Dutchman
Faulkner's Duke of St. Albans

RED-LACED.

Lee's Joseph Sturge
Etchell's Susanna
Brundret's Sir William
Greaves's Stockwell
Parker's Dr. Hepworth
Williams's Thirza

Partington's Mary Ellen
Moorley's Dorothy
Rawsthorn's Bright Star
Richard Cobden
Trickett's Adam Smith
Slater's Lady Antrobus

BLACK AND WHITE.

Norris's Blackeyed Susan
Whalley's Beauty of Clayton
Fairbrother's Beauty of Blackburn
Millman's Lilla
Kay's Mary
Burgin's Miss Jessop
Gregson's Lady Boldhaughton
Wigley's Snowball
O'Brien's Virgin Queen
Rawsthorn's Superior
Lady Frost
Beauty of Home

The above has been forwarded to us by Mr. Robert Moorley, of Newcastle-under-Lyme, who says, "Any one possessing a moderate stock of these flowers may compete with success at the Cheshire, North Staffordshire, and Lancashire open pink

show, to be held at Macclesfield." We are obliged by Mr. Moorley's attention, but we must frankly say, we note many varieties here given which we consider utterly inferior to those recommended by Mr. Charles Turner, at page 129. We desire to offend no friend or cultivator of flowers, but we should be wanting in candour, if we did not say, we think our northern friends behind the time with their pinks. If spared another season, we hope we may be able to initiate an exhibition on the principle of the trial exhibitions of carnations and picotees, to bring this question to a practical issue.

ANALYSIS OF GOOSEBERRIES OF 1854.

FROM THE "GOOSEBERRY GROWERS' REGISTER," BY MR. R. MOORLEY, NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME, STAFFORDSHIRE.

THE following analysis exhibits at one view twelve of the heaviest berries in each class, weighed in at the different meetings throughout England, the number of prizes each variety has won, the number of times each has been 20dwts. and upwards, the heaviest weight attained: by whom grown and where grown; also twelve of the heaviest seedlings in each class. As may be seen by a reference to the analysis for the years 1850 and 51, in the *Midland Florist*, the year 1854 must be considered a *heavy* year, though not to compare with the season of 1852, the great year, the blight or greenfly having been so prejudicial. London is registered 30dwts. and upwards five times, and Antagonist twice reached 30dwts. No other variety registered 30dwts., although it will be seen that several other sorts reached 28dwts. and 29dwts. and upwards.

HEAVIEST BERRY IN EACH CLASS.

	RED.	dwt. gr.
London, grown by Mr. John Parks, Searesbrick, near Ormskirk, Lancashire		31 16
	YELLOW.	
Peru, grown by Mr. R. Holden, Holtmill, near Blackburn		29 16
	GREEN.	
Thumper, grown by Mr. T. Lanceley, Delamere, Cheshire		28 0
	WHITE.	
Antagonist, grown by Mr. Joshua Oldfield, Macclesfield, and Mr. James Whittaker, Blackley, near Manchester		30 0

Names and Colour.	Number of Prizes won	Number of Times 20dwts. & upwards.	Heaviest Weight.	Whom grown by.	County grown in.
RED.					
London	411	351	31 16	J. Parks	Lancashire
Companion	211	155	27 0	G. Addis....	Staffordshire
Conquering Hero	166	121	27 11	G. Lee	Yorkshire
Wonderful.....	112	73	26 9	Tutin	Notts.
Dan's Mistake ..	98	82	28 12	J. Wild	Derbyshire
Magnet	74	40	28 20	R. Ashton ..	Lancashire
Napoleon le Grand	67	52	26 10	A. Mills	Cheshire
Speedwell	24	17	27 0	J. Flower ..	Staffordshire
Ricardo	12	11	26 18	W. Higginbotham	Staffordshire
Clayton	10	6	27 0	J. Bailey ..	Cheshire
Ormskirk Beauty	8	7	26 20	J. Coppack..	Cheshire
Old England....	6	5	27 1	T. Moore ..	Cheshire
YELLOW.					
Catherina	275	211	29 2	J. Smalley ..	Lancashire
Drill	261	198	29 12	J. Fish	Lancashire
Leader	198	117	25 8	J. Coppack..	Cheshire
Peru	149	81	29 16	R. Holden ..	Lancashire
Pilot	98	55	25 13	J. Hall	Cheshire
Goldfinder.....	70	41	25 5	C. Barnes ..	Notts.
Oakmere	24	15	27 4	J. Lockett ..	Lancashire
Oldham	22	13	25 7	T. Biggins ..	Yorkshire
Leveller	21	14	25 0	J. Bailey ..	Cheshire
Great Western ..	15	9	26 3	C. Stanier ..	Staffordshire
Go-by.....	9	6	25 20	T. Nicholls..	Cheshire
Comet	8	6	25 22	J. Windward	Lancashire
GREEN.					
Thumper	262	126	28 0	T. Lancely ..	Cheshire
Queen Victoria ..	153	72	25 19	C. Barnes ..	Notts.
General	148	68	26 7	J. Hall	Lancashire
Gretna Green ..	135	60	25 13	J. Haigh....	Yorkshire
Rough Green....	110	63	25 15	J. Fish	Lancashire
Overall	44	18	26 22	J. Coppack..	Cheshire
Telegraph	44	24	24 18	J. Barker ..	Staffordshire
Tom Joiner	31	9	27 0	T. Pilkington	Lancashire
Thunder.....	30	20	27 14	T. Nicholls..	Cheshire
Banksman	23	8	24 19	W. Dimmick	Staffordshire
Invincible	17	5	24 12	J. Coppack..	Cheshire
Fearless	3	3	27 12	G. Addis....	Staffordshire
WHITE.					
Freedom	218	134	25 14	J. Coppack..	Cheshire
Queen of Trumps	184	91	24 18	D. Gatley ..	Cheshire
Snowdrop	183	99	28 17	J. Prophet ..	Cheshire
Lady Leicester ..	121	67	25 9	J. Hall	Lancashire
Snowball	110	56	26 22	T. Pott	Cheshire
Antagonist.....	94	65	30 0	{ J. Oldfield	Cheshire
				{ J. Whittaker	Lancashire
Jenny Lind	31	22	25 6	J. Bailey....	Cheshire
Careless	27	19	25 0	G. Crompton	Lancashire
London City	15	12	26 17	J. Whittaker	Lancashire
Esda's Daughter	11	4	26 6	I. Hulme ..	Lancashire

TWELVE OF THE HEAVIEST SEEDLINGS IN EACH CLASS.

Names and Colour.	Heaviest Weight.		Whom grown by.	County grown in.
RED.	dwt.	gr.		
	26	19	G. Wilkinson	Cheshire
*Masterpiece	25	4	C. Leicester	Cheshire
*Lord Liverpool....	24	20	G. Webster	Lancashire
	24	18	T. Baskerville	Cheshire
*John Anderson....	24	6	G. Crompton	Lancashire
*Paris	23	18	W. Oliver ..	Cheshire
	23	17	R. Gregory..	Derbyshire
Sir C. Napier	23	4	G. Baskerville	Cheshire
	22	22	J. Parry	Cheshire
	22	22	J. Brotherton	Cheshire
Lord Lyndhurst....	22	19	G. Webster	Lancashire
*Kossuth.....	22	12	J. Pennington	Staffordshire
YELLOW.				
*Candidate	24	6	G. Crompton	Lancashire
*Heroine	23	16	L. Lockett ..	Staffordshire
	23	14	J. Parkes ..	Lancashire
	23	11	J. Flower ..	Staffordshire
	23	8	Stafford	Warwickshire
	22	18	J. Chapman	Lancashire
	22	4	G. Livesey ..	Lancashire
	21	15	C. Stanier ..	Staffordshire
	21	12	J. Brown ..	Lancashire
	21	10	D. Moores ..	Lancashire
	21	8	W. Hulme ..	Cheshire
	21	5	T. Cook	Cheshire
GREEN.				
*King of Trumps ..	24	18	J. Hilton ..	Lancashire
	22	2	P. Daine....	Cheshire
*Gallant Doctor	22	2	G. Webster	Lancashire
*Robin Hood	21	3	H. Haywood	Yorkshire
	21	1	J. Hardman	Lancashire
Washington	21	1	J. Ackerley	Cheshire
	21	1	B. Kenyon..	Yorkshire
	21	0	J. Brown ..	Lancashire
	21	0	J. Chapman	Lancashire
	20	21	S. Colley ..	Cheshire
	20	16	J. Prescott..	Lancashire
*Rambler	20	12	J. Bailey....	Cheshire
WHITE.				
	22	22	W. Rowson	Lancashire
Mary Wright	22	22	J. Haigh....	Yorkshire
Faithful	22	15	T. Nicholls..	Cheshire
	22	3	J. Brotherton	Cheshire
	22	0	E. Higginbotham	Lancashire
Snowden	21	12	T. Nicholls..	Cheshire
*Elizabeth	21	9	T. Hollins ..	Staffordshire
*Freewill.....	21	9	W. Berry ..	Lancashire
	21	4	W. Henshaw	Cheshire
	20	20	Bradwall	Notte

THE FELTON UNION OF FLORISTS AND HORTICULTURISTS.

The members of the Felton Union of Horticulturists held their annual exhibition of tulips, pansies, and vegetables, in the dining-room of the Widdrington Arms Inn, Felton, on Monday, the 12th of June, 1854, when the prizes were awarded as follow :—

TULIPS.

Premier, or Extra Prizes, given by T. Riddell, Esq., Felton Park, for the best three tulips, one rose, one byblæmen, and one bizarre —1st Polyphemus, Aglaia, and Baguet, A. Gowens, Felton. 2nd. Delaforce's Earl Douglas, Madame Vestris, and Black Diamond, W. Harrison, West Thirston.

Feathered Roses.

- 1 Heroine, J. Grahamsley
- 2 Catalini, ditto
- 3 Triomphe Royale, ditto
- 4 Heroine, ditto
- 5 Ditto, ditto
- 6 Triomphe Royale, A. Gowens

Flamed Roses.

- 1 Triomphe Royale, A. Gowens
- 2 Amadis, J. Grahamsley
- 3 Duchess of Clarence, ditto
- 4 Aglaia, A. Gowens
- 5 Triomphe Royale, ditto
- 6 Rose Primo, ditto

Feathered Byblæmens.

- 1 Maid of Orleans, W. Harrison.
- 2 Violet Blanche, A. Gowens.
- 3 Violet Imperial, ditto
- 4 Tour de Salisbury, ditto
- 5 Alexander Magnus, ditto
- 6 Unknown, J. Grahamsley

Flamed Byblæmens.

- 1 Triomphe de Lisle, A. Gowens
- 2 Baguet, ditto
- 3 Grand Prior, ditto
- 4 Constant, ditto
- 5 Roi de Siam, ditto
- 6 Lawrence's Friend, J. Crossling

Feathered Bizarres.

- 1 Platoff, J. Grahamsley
- 2 Truth, ditto
- 3 Tyso's President, ditto
- 4 Demetrius, A. Gowens
- 5 Milner's Duke of Devonshire, J. Grahamsley
- 6 Prince Albert, A. Gowens

Flamed Bizarres.

- 1 Polyphemus, J. Grahamsley
- 2 Donzelli, A. Gowens
- 3 Ophir, ditto
- 4 Donzelli, J. Grahamsley
- 5 Bolivar, A. Gowens
- 6 Catafalque, ditto

PANSIES.

Six Dissimilar Blooms.—1st. Duke of Perth, Adela, Seedling. Queen of England, Duke of Norfolk, and Crossling's Miss Laura Riddell, J. Crossling, Felton Park. 2nd. Flower of the Day, Adela, Royal Visit, Duke of Norfolk, Mrs. Beck, and Bangup, Mr. Black, Linden House. 3rd. Marchioness of Bath, St. Andrew, Queen of England, and three seedlings, J. Crossley. 4th. Adela, Duke of Perth, Duchess of Rutland, Clorinda, Royal Visit, and Mr. Beck, Mr. Black. 5th. Ophir, Mrs. Crossling, Duchess of Rutland, Supreme, Rainbow, and Queen of England, J. Harrison, Warkworth. 6th. Berryer, Adela, Mrs. Beck, Duke of Perth, and two seedlings, T. Dawson, Acklington.

The prize for the best seedling pansy was awarded to Mr. Crossling, for Crossling's Omar Pacha, a very magnificent yellow ground variety, with a fine heavy blotched eye, and dark brown belting. This is indeed a truly superb addition to Mr. Crossling's strong stock of seedlings, and a flower that will maintain a place among the very best for some years to come,

VEGETABLES.

Three Stems of Rhubarb.—1. (Victoria), A. Gowens. 2. Mr. Cookson. 3. A. Gowens.

Cabbage.—1. (Howick Improved), W. Scott. 2. (Enfield Improved), W. Harrison. 3. E. Burn.

Leeks.—1. (Musselburgh), T. Dawson. 2 and 3. (London Flag), W. Harrison.

Radishes.—1 and 2. T. Mack. 3. W. Harrison.

Extra prizes were also awarded to Mr. Wm. Dobson, for turnips; to Mr. Mack, for onions; and to T. Brewis, Esq., for a fine dish of early potatoes.

Extra prizes given by T. Riddell, Esq., Felton Park, for the best collection of vegetables.—1. A. Gowens, Felton. 2. T. Mack, Felton.

[We must beg that reports of exhibitions be forwarded *immediately* after the exhibitions have taken place. Unless this is done, we cannot undertake to give insertion to them in our pages.—Ed.]

HINTS FOR THE MONTH.

FLORISTS' FLOWERS.

AURICULAS.—Many of these are still in good bloom. Continue the care recommended last month. Those going out of bloom will not need so much water, but still take care that there is a proper supply. Gather seed and preserve carefully as it ripens. Look well to insects.

CALCEOLARIAS.—Shade from bright sunshine. Supply water to the pots and around them, add frequently liquid manure, keep clear of insects.

CARNATIONS AND PICOTEES.—Tie up the flower-stems as they advance; in dry weather, supply well with moisture. Stir the surface of the pots occasionally; remove dead foliage, also greenfly; top-dress beds or pots which may require it, using a mixture of sound loam and well-decomposed manure. Towards the end of the month, some pinching out of the flower-stems and laterals will be needed; let this be done, bearing in mind the habit of the variety with which you are dealing; some require much to be done in this respect, others little, if anything at all.

CINERARIAS.—Plants going out of flower should be supplied less liberally with water, and kept cool; those still in bloom will need the treatment previously recommended. Seed should still be sown.

DAHLIAS.—If the ground has been properly prepared, these may now be planted out; the stronger growing varieties, for producing exhibition blooms, will require to be planted six feet apart between the lines, and five feet six inches in the line. The weaker growing sorts will do quite well with a foot less each way. For each plant, a wide hole should be made, which will hold a barrowful of well-decomposed dung and turfy soil, in equal parts, which will give them a start that they will keep through the season. Fancy varieties will do better with less dung and more turfy soil.

EPACRIS.—These come under the head of those plants which may, during this month, be removed from the greenhouse into their summer quarters. See that in this and all other similar cases, the pots are placed on a bottom through which the annoyance of worms will not penetrate. Do not crowd the plants more now than you would have done in the greenhouse, and keep them as carefully under your eye in the one case as in the other.

ERICAS.—Pot any small plants which may need a shift. Pits are an excellent place for summering these in, in which case the sashes used should be covered with oiled calico, or some such material, in preference to glass. Coolness is of great importance to these, during summer.

FUCHSIAS.—Those required as specimens in pots, will well repay the attention bestowed on them now, in the shape of

stopping over-luxuriant growth, training, &c., by the increased elegance of the appearance they will present when in flower. Supply liberally with water, occasionally using liquid manure.

HOLLYHOCKS.—Support such as, need it, and tie the flower-stems securely as they advance. Encourage into liberal growth by the usual means, such as stirring the soil, and weak liquid manure.

PANSIES will now be very engrossing to the enthusiastic cultivator of these favourites. Those intended for show purposes should be shaded from bright sun and protected from wet, for a week or so before the exhibition. Take all means for the destruction of the great enemy to the blooms, the earwig; if neglected, your disappointment may be great on the morning of the intended competition.

PANSIES IN POTS.—The above remarks apply greatly to these also. Let a due supply of moisture be provided, and to strong plants coming well into bloom give weak liquid manure. Propagate the pansy generally; cuttings, such as will make fine sound plants, are plentiful now in both beds and pots, and the opportunity should not be lost.

PELARGONIUMS.—These, although more than usually backward, will this month be coming fully into flower. Shade is essential to brilliancy of colour and preservation of bloom, as is also the exclusion of bees from specimen plants. It is too late now to risk the destruction of greenfly by fumigation; still the plants must be kept clear of their injurious effects, and the pest must be brushed off as soon as it appears. Where cuttings can be had, now is a good time for their propagation; if struck in a slight bottom heat, they will make fine stock for next season. Attend carefully to watering, and keep as far as possible a moist atmosphere round the plants, by damping the floors, stages, &c., occasionally.

PINKS.—Water freely; tie the blooming stems as they advance, and disbud as needed. An occasional dose of liquid manure will greatly assist the bloom.

CALENDAR OF OPERATIONS, FOR JUNE.

[*From Rendle's Price Current and Garden Directory.*]

No quarter to weeds must still be the maxim; indeed, if this advice is of more importance in one month than another, it is this. We may repeat the same as to slugs and insects. Watering must be duly attended to in dry weather; such crops as celery, Horn carrots, young broccoli, lettuce, &c, must not be allowed to suffer through drought,—celery especially; and those who require first-rate lettuce, must keep the plants moist. Frequent attention must now be given to the thinning out of

rising crops, and the small hoe cannot be plied too frequently. The pricking out and finally planting of the various cabbageworts, broccoli, &c., must have every attention. They are a most important section, and care should be taken to fill up all existing gaps in crops; also to break up those which are unprofitable, and rearrange, whilst the season is young.

Take care that a full supply of autumn broccoli, cauliflowers, &c. are planted. Autumn peas too are highly important. Let all space between crops receive cultivation, if possible.

Most early-sown and transplanted crops will be now making good growth, and require hoeing, thinning, and encouraging by every means; applying liquid manure, mulching &c., if dry weather prevail. Take a retrospective glance over your crops, and see that nothing has been omitted. Leave not a place vacant that can be turned to account.

CELERY.—Encourage all you can; prick out from seed beds, to get strong sturdy plants. Any of the earlier sown plant in trench for first use. In planting out celery, take care not to bury it below the seed leaf. This applies to every other kind of vegetable; deep planting is very injurious. Celery, to grow solid and crisp, ought to be sown in well-prepared ground; it is a gross-feeding, thirsty plant, and should be encouraged by plentiful applications of liquid manure.

BRUSSELS SPROUTS.—Plant from seed-bed, in spare ground.

LEEKS.—Plant out in rows, twelve to eighteen inches apart, in good soil.

DWARF SAVOYS.—Plant out on spare ground.

BROCCOLI, WALCHEREN AND CAPE.—Plant out.

BEANS.—Sow a few of the broad kinds, in a cool situation, taking care to stop them as they come into flower.

DWARF FRENCH BEANS AND SCARLET RUNNERS.—Sow in succession. Pinch the tops out of the latter, it promotes their early productiveness. Place sticks were required.

PEAS.—Sow the tall-growing late kinds. Pinch off their tops, when coming into flower, as recommended for Scarlet Runners.

SPINACH.—Continue to sow for succession.

LETTUCE.—Sow and transplant for the same purpose.

CAPSICUMS AND CHILIS.—Plant out in warm borders, and nail against the walls, where vacancies occur between fruit trees.

ENDIVE.—Sow for early crop.

TOMATOS.—Attend to training those already planted out. Thin the branches.

COLEWORT.—Sow a good breadth for, early use. Chapple's variety is excellent.

RIDGE CUCUMBERS.—Plant out. Attend well to the stopping, training, and mulching.

TURNIPS.—Continue to sow in succession; and, for principal crop, sorts already recommended will be found to answer well.

ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.



THE ROYAL NATIONAL TULIP SHOW.

THE exhibition held on the 29th of May, will, we venture to prognosticate, prove to be eminently fruitful in its results. A very few years since, the course pursued by florists, in their seekings after, or estimates of excellence in their various flowers, might, without any forced analogy, have been compared to the old story of the man and his wife, at opposite ends of the rope; but the intercourse promoted by the National, the interchange of opinion and comparison of practices, has worked out a vast change, and amongst those who have been most prominent at these meetings, it is not too much to say, there has been, for some time, no appreciable difference to be found. On the 29th of May, however, the exhibition entered a new field, and in conjunction with the unusual lateness of the season, brought forward several competitors new, or comparatively new, to these competitions. Under these circumstances, we were not surprised to find that a considerable diversity of opinion prevailed, or to see ideas widely at variance illustrated. But on these grounds, we believe the meeting now just past will have a more than ordinary significance in the history of the National, and be more than usually fruitful in its results. Doubtless it would have been more agreeable to have found opinions more in unison, but just as the strong wind hardens and matures the oak, so in the conflict of opinion is truth to be evolved. And we shall be surprised if the meeting now under notice has not afforded subjects for useful meditation, albeit it may be somewhat tempered with disappointment, to many friends in widely-separated districts. Of the show

itself, though unequal to several we have seen, yet having reference to the extraordinary and most ungenial season, it certainly exceeded our anticipations. Fourteen stands of six, ten of twelve, three of eighteen blooms, and about two hundred and fifty single specimens, made up an imposing aggregate,—and though, with the exception of the blooms from Slough and Staines, the majority needed further development, there were to be found many examples of the finest quality. The scene of the exhibition was the Old Botanic Garden, and one of the large glass houses belonging thereto had been selected for the putting up and judging the flowers, prior to their transfer to the tents. A slight ablation of the glass, stages, &c. would have been advantageous, but in other respects the place was well adapted for the purpose, as the additional warmth conferred by the glass was wanted to induce the flowers to expand. We are inclined, however, to believe that this circumstance originated much of the diversity of opinion as to the decisions of the judges which, later in the day, was expressed; the fact being, that after their removal to the tents, the flowers, from the coldness of the air and heavy shade, were closed up, and presented, in the great majority of cases, an utterly different appearance. Faults which, with the flower fully expanded, required a critical examination to detect (though we can answer for it that the judges did detect them), as partially green exterior petals, were in the closed-up specimen flagrant to the merest inspection, whilst the grossest evils in the tulip, as green bases, stained stamens or other impurities, were hidden from view, and were consequently held by their too partial owners to have no existence. We are quite aware that we cannot claim any authority for our opinions upon the tulip, and we intend to claim none, but we can bear our testimony to the pains taken by Mr. Macefield and Mr. Parkinson in their awards for the six blooms and eighteen blooms classes; and so far as our opinion is worth anything,

with the opportunity we had of seeing the flowers both open and closed, we cannot hesitate to record our conviction that the decisions were well deserved, and founded upon a sound appreciation of the properties of the flower.

In the sixes, Mr. Charles Turner, of the Royal Nursery, Slough, took the lead, with finely-grown and well-marked flowers. Duke of Devonshire (feathered), Triomphe Royale, Alexander Magnus, and Glory of Abingdon (the three latter flamed), would have suited every one who could appreciate fine colours, forms, and markings. Madame Vestris, feathered rose, and Rutley's Queen, feathered byblœmen, were unequal to the others; the first being too dull and indefinite in colour for a *rose*, and the latter having a slight cloudiness in the base. But, upon a balance of properties, we think this stand won hollow.

Mr. Spencer, of Thulston, by Derby, was second, with six well-matched clean blooms, though, as compared with the first stand, small in size. Royal Sovereign and Salvator Rosa, both in heavy style, were exceedingly good, as also were Triomphe Royale and Heroine. Victoria Regina, feathered byblœmen, was clean and very correctly marked, but, as is frequently the case with this variety, in the midland counties, the exterior petals were defaced with green blotches, and this circumstance led to various floral witticisms on the part of the unsuccessful competitors.

Mr. Lawrence was third. From the high position Mr. Lawrence has so repeatedly taken, and the well-known excellence of the Hampton collection, we had expected a higher award for these flowers, but a careful scrutiny satisfied us that the place was fairly assigned. Everard, an extra fine red bizarre, was insufficiently expanded, and the colour was slightly flushed in those petals which were dropping back; whilst Kate Connor, feathered rose, and Vivid, the feathered bizarre, were full of incipient markings in the interior, so much so as almost to remove them

from the feathered class. Kate is a very sweet-looking flower on the exterior, but if not free from the fault indicated, we cannot think she will ever occupy a high place in the feathered class.

Mr. Betteridge, of Milton Hill, Abingdon, came fourth. In this stand we noticed a superb bloom of *Triomphe Royale*; and David, flamed byblœmen, was in magnificent character, so much so that it obtained the premier prize as best of its class in the whole exhibition. Bion, feathered rose, and Royal Sovereign, feathered bizarre, were good average flowers; the losing point being a closed-up Everard, and a very poor specimen of *Lawrence's Friend*. Various opinions were expressed as to the position of this stand, but with all deference to the dissentients, we think the judges very wisely refused a high place to a stand containing a specimen which would not expand.

Mr. Adams, of Derby, was fifth, with six very pretty specimens, which wanted nothing but growth.

Mr. Hunt, of High Wycombe, was sixth, with flowers which would have had a much higher place, but for the tinged stamens in the bloom of *Lady Denman*. Had Mr. Hunt filled the place of her ladyship with his splendid flower, the *Queen of the South*, the result would have been very different, but we suppose he was deterred by the fact that the latter flower had grown rents in the petal. Taking this exhibition as an example, we should certainly say, that however much theoretically our southern friends may insist upon absolute purity, their practice is not one whit, in this respect, before that of the florists of the midlands.

In the class for twelve blooms, Mr. Betteridge was first, his flowers combining good growth with fine bright colours and markings. The stand was also noticeable for an *effective arrangement*, a point which, to judge from the mode in which their flowers were set up, had never received the slightest thought from some of his competitors.

Mr. Hunt was second. In this stand David, flamed byblœmen, was exceedingly fine, and generally speaking the flowers were very even and effectively arranged.

Mr. Headly came third, five of the twelve flowers being seedlings of his own raising. Of these, Sarah, was exceedingly good; a rich dense rose. Apollo, flamed bizarre, has a noble beam, but the feathering is imperfect. Adonis, feathered byblœmen, was very pretty, something in the way of Queen of the North.

Mr. Lymbery, of Nottingham, was fourth, with fair average flowers, so arranged as to produce the worst possible effect. We say with some pride, that we believe the standard of individual excellence in these flowers has been in the midlands, for some years, quite in advance of other districts; but with exceeding regret we must also say, that so far as they appear to have an eye for, or an appreciation of general effect, our friends might as well be without the pale of civilization. And it is to us inexplicable how men can possess a taste which shall take exception to a line unduly deflected, or to a colour indistinct and undecided, and yet have no eye for effect on a scale a thousand times magnified. Under such circumstances can we wonder that florists are called crude *fanciers*, and that the possession of the artistic element is denied to us?

Dr. Sanders, of Staines, was fifth. Considering the high position held by Dr. Sanders amongst the amateurs of the south, we confess we were disappointed with his flowers. They were large, well grown, and admirably developed truly; but of that richness of marking which should distinguish every florists' flower, more especially the tulip, there was a lamentable deficiency. And that finely-marked flowers can be produced from the south, we have not only proof in the specimens brought from Slough, Hampton, Abingdon, and Wycombe, but in the superb bloom of Royal Sovereign shown by Dr. Sanders in his stand of six, to which the premier prize in the feathered bizarre class was awarded. Is it possible that a flower

so splendidly marked can be regarded with no more pleasure than is felt in the contemplation of a specimen miserably blotched and broken in its markings? Is not every break in the continuity of the marking an infraction of that harmonious distribution of colour in which alone a cultivated eye can delight? We cannot think there can be any difficulty in determining these questions.

Three stands of eighteen blooms only were exhibited. Mr. Turner, of Slough, was first, Mr. Lawrence a good second, and Mr. Lymbery third. Mr. Turner's flowers were admirably grown and extremely well contrasted. Mr. Lawrence's stand was also fine in colour, and equally well arranged, the point against it being that the flowers were hardly so much developed as those shown by Mr. Turner. The third stand was noticeable for the singularity of arrangement already commented upon in the class for twelve blooms.

The awards in the classes, single specimens, for which we believe Mr. George Lightbody was principally responsible, were equally subjected to question with those of the collections. Feathered bizarres were a fair average class, the first four prizes going to Royal Sovereigns, the two last to Duke of Devonshire and Sphinx, the latter, as we thought, an alias of the Duke merely. Flamed bizarres were however much excepted to, and that not from one quarter or district, but from all; and in our opinion, several fine specimens of Pilot, though rejected, would far more worthily have filled the place of honour than the blooms of Royal Sovereign, Duke of Devonshire, or Pizarro, each of which were quite green at the base. The fifth prize in flamed byblœmens, Lord Denman, had every stamen stained; and the first prize in feathered roses, Madame Vestris, should not, in our judgment, from its very dubious colour, have been placed in the rose class at all. In referring thus to facts we heard very freely commented upon, we hope we shall not be misunderstood, much less in giving

our opinion do we claim an immunity from error. But we consider it to be our especial duty in the position we hold, from no choice of our own, impartially to report facts, and freely to comment upon whatever we think inconsistent or contradictory. If, in so doing, we expose ourselves to correction, we invite our friends, one and all, to perform this office for us.

In feathered bybloemens, Queen of the North was first, and for purity and regular delicate marking was faultless. It is indeed a superb variety. No. 2, however, Queen of the South, is still finer, an accidental blemish alone placing it second in the class. This is a seedling, raised by Mr. Hunt, of High Wycombe, and is every way worthy of the name conferred upon it. In style, it is very similar to Queen of the North, the feather being rather deeper and the petal nearly twice as broad. Altogether we thought it the gem of the exhibition. Lady Catherine Gordon, the first flamed rose, and premier in its class, was a fine marked flower, quite as rich in its style as a good Aglaia, with a brighter colour, but to our mind the cup is too long.

Other premiers which we have not alluded to were Selim, flamed bizarre, exhibited by Mr. Charles Turner, in his stand of eighteen, and Gem (Abbott's), feathered bybloemen, and Mary Lamb, feathered rose, both shown by Mr. Allestree, of Draycott, in his stand of six blooms. Gem is a most lovely flower, the marking being exceedingly regular and well contrasted with its pure white, but we believe the colour is apt to flush, or in tulip phraseology, to melt early. Mary Lamb is everything that can be desired for regularity of marking and richness of colour, its fault alone is that it is rather long in shape and pointed in the petal.

Other flowers not specially rewarded we noticed, were Godet Parfait, feathered bybloemen, shown by J. J. Colman, Esq., of Norwich; as exhibited, an exquisite variety, not inferior, as we thought, to Queen of the North. A fine seedling feathered rose, shown by Mr. Headly we thought particularly desirable:

being unnamed, we suppose it is a recent break. *Victoria Regina*, another seedling of Mr. Headly's, is a magnificent flower; colour a brilliant scarlet, with a broad branching flame, in the richest style, though unfortunately the feathering was hardly so continuous as we like; nevertheless, with this fault, it is a variety we should seek amongst a hundred. *Titian*, dark red bizarre, with an extra fine bold beam, is another noble variety of Mr. Headly's, though imperfect in the feathering. Our observation was necessarily imperfect, from the press of company around the flowers throughout the day, but so far as we were able to judge, our impression was that this was the general characteristic of Mr. Headly's flowers. Seedlings were brought forward in a profusion, and of a quality literally, we believe, before unknown. We have already referred to the *Queen of the South*. In addition, Mr. Hunt showed four feathered bizarres, and Mr. Lawrence a similar number. Of these, Joseph Hunt (*Lawrence*), George Hayward (*Lawrence*), Robert Lawrence (*Hunt*), and Sir G. H. Dashwood (*Hunt*), were each awarded first-class certificates, and well deserved them. George Hayward was described last year, by Mr. Wood. It is superior to *Royal Sovereign*, both in the brilliancy of its colour and excellent shape. Joseph Hunt is a cross between *Polyphemus* and *Pompe Funebre*, and remarkably exemplifies its breed. Robert Lawrence is in the way of an extra fine *Duke of Devonshire*, with an improvement in shape; whilst Sir G. H. Dashwood follows *Sovereign* in its style, with rather a darker feather. *Josephus* and *Lucifer*, from Mr. Hunt, were fine, as were also the remaining seedlings from Mr. Lawrence, but these we must leave for description when again seen. A seedling flamed bizarre, from our friend, Mr. Adams, shown neither for certificate nor competition, being young and too small, was one of the finest marked flowers there. It is much in the way of *Truth*, but darker in colour, quite pure, and of excellent shape.

Late in the afternoon, a select party sat down to an excellent dinner, at the Red Lion Hotel, under the presidency of John Thorniley, Esq., in the unavoidable temporary absence of Mr. Headly; and after the good things had been discussed, and a well-deserved compliment paid to Mr. Headly, the treasurer, and Mr. Brown, the secretary, for the liberality which had marked their management, it was unanimously agreed that Oxford should be the place of meeting for next season, and that Mr. Betteridge and Mr. Hunt should be a deputation to the committee of the Royal Oxfordshire Horticultural Society, to request that body to take charge of the exhibition. We are quite sure that those who have had the gratification of visiting Cambridge, will, if spared, find an equal pleasure in a trip to the sister university, and we can only desire that the committee for 1856 may carry out the exhibition with the liberality which has distinguished the management for the present year, and that their efforts may be seconded with the one thing alone wanting, a more genial season.

The judges were, for classes A and C, Mr. Parkinson, of Derby, and Mr. Macefield, of Hoxton, London. Mr. R. I. Lawrence, Mr. Charles Turner, and Mr. George Lightbody, acting in class B.

Annexed is the award:—

SIX BLOOMS, ONE IN EACH CLASS.

1st. Mr. Charles Turner, Royal Nursery, Slough, with Madame Vestris, Duke of Devonshire, Alexander Magnus, Rutley's Queen, Triomphe Royale, and Glory of Abingdon.

2nd. Mr. Charles Spencer, Thulston, by Derby, with Royal Sovereign, Victoria Regina, Heroine, Pilot, Salvator Rosa, and Triomphe Royale.

3rd. Mr. R. I. Lawrence, Hampton, with Everard, Queen Charlotte, Kate Connor, Byzantium, Triomphe Royale, and Vivid.

4th. Mr. H. Betteridge, Milton Hill, Abingdon, with Bion, Royal Sovereign, Friend, Triomphe Royale, David, and Everard.

5th. Mr. Thomas Adams, Derby, with Captain White, Aglaia, Gem, Duke of Devonshire, Salvator Rosa, and Heroine.

6th. Mr. Joseph Hunt, High Wycombe, with Lady Denman, Camuse de Croix, Sir Joseph Paxton, Princess Royal, Bion, and Vivid.

Other competitors in this class were Mr. Headly, Mr. Barratt, and Mr. Lenton, of Cambridge; Mr. Lymbery, Nottingham; Mr.

Houghton, Hempshill; Mr. Allestree, Draycott; Mr. Thorniley, Heaton Norris; and Dr. Sanders, of Staines.

TWELVE BLOOMS.

1st. Mr. Betteridge, with seedling (feathered byblømen), seedling (flamed byblømen), Sir E. Codrington, Heroine, Royal Sovereign, Bion, Rembrandt (Wood), Glory of Abingdon, Thalia, Charles Brown, Mountain Sylph, and Triomphe du Monde (or Pass Salvator Rosa).

2nd. Mr. Hunt, with Nora Creina, Gold Cup, Lady Stanley, David, Ulysses, Heroine, Violet Quarto, Pilot, Brulant (Beteral), Princess Royal, Lustre, and Lady Catherine Gordon.

3rd. Mr. R. Headly, with Chellaston, Penelope (Headly), Sarah (Headly), seedling, Aglaia feathered, Aglaia flamed, Duke of Devonshire, Pilot, Apollo (Headly), Platoff, Adonis (Headly), and Better than Fanny Goepel.

4th. Mr. Lymbery, with Paul Pry, Shakspeare, Platoff, Vivid, Queen Charlotte, Lorenzo, Nepaulese Prince, Rosa Blanca, Triomphe Royale, Comte de Vergennes, Joe Maltby, and La Vandicken.

5th. Dr. Sanders, with Smith's Sir Robert Peel, Sir James Watts, Princess Lamballe, Triomphe Royale, Polyphemus, Caledonia, Walworth, Claudiana, Royal George, Duke of Devonshire, Reine d'Egypt, and Ariel.

Other competitors were Mr. Colman, Norwich; Mr. Allestree, Mr. Spencer, Mr. Thorniley, and Mr. Barratt.

EIGHTEEN BLOOMS.

1st. Mr. Charles Turner, with Alexander Magnus, Madame Vestris, Rosa Blanca, Aglaia flamed, Duke of Devonshire, Triomphe Royale, Aglaia feathered, Pilot, Princess Royale, Strong's King, Primo Bien du Noir, Selim, Purple Perfection, Heroine, Delaforce's King, Countess Harrington, Polyphemus, and Arlette.

2nd. Mr. Lawrence, with Polyphemus, Vicar of Radford, Queen Charlotte, seedling (feathered bizarre), Mrs Lymbery, Aglaia, Pilot, Claudiana, Madame Vestris, Maid of Orleans, Vivid, Violet Imperial, Friend, Armidia, seedling (bizarre), Heroine, Queen of the North, and Sphinx.

3rd. Mr. Lymbery, with Platoff, Sir Joseph Paxton, Strong's King, Paul Pry, Duke of Devonshire, Captain White, Mrs. Lymbery, Bacchus, Lady Denman, Lysandre Noir, Hepworth's Sarah, Crown Prince of the Netherlands, Comte de Vergennes, Aglaia, Agnes Creswell, Joe Maltby, Geraldine, and Lavinia.

SINGLE SPECIMENS, IN CLASSES.

Feathered Bizarres.

- 1 Royal Sovereign, Mr. C. Spencer
- 2 Ditto, Mr. T. Houghton
- 3 Ditto, Mr. Charles Spencer
- 4 Ditto, ditto
- 5 Duke of Devonshire, Rev. S. Creswell
- 6 Sphinx, ditto

Flamed Bizarres.

- 1 Royal Sovereign, Mr. C. Turner
- 2 Seedling, Mr. R. I. Lawrence
- 3 Duke of Devonshire, Mr. C. Turner
- 4 Pizarro, ditto

- 5 Selim, Mr. R. I. Lawrence

- 6 Polyphemus, Mr. C. Spencer

Feathered Byblømens.

- 1 Queen of the North, Mr. R. I. Lawrence
- 2 Queen of the South, Mr. J. Hunt
- 3 Friend, Mr. R. I. Lawrence
- 4 Seedling, Mr. R. Headly
- 5 Helen, Mr. Joseph Hunt
- 6 Eliza, Mr. Joseph Hunt

Flamed Byblømens.

- 1 Don Pedro, Mr. R. I. Lawrence
- 2 Princess Royal, Mr. C. Turner
- 3 David, Mr. Clarke

4 Camarine, Mr. Lawrence	6 Heroine. Mr. C. Turner
5 Lord Denman, Mr. C. Spencer	<i>Flamed Roses.</i>
6 Princess Royal, Mr. C. Turner	1 Lady Catherine Gordon, Mr. J. Hunt
<i>Feathered Roses.</i>	
1 Madame Vestris, Mr. Lawrence	2 Triomphe Royale, Mr. C. Turner
2 Mary Lamb, Rev. S. Creswell	3 Aglaia, Mr. Lawrence
3 Heroine, Mr. C. Spencer	4 Triomphe Royale, Mr. J. Hunt
4 Ditto, Mr. Houghton	5 Ditto, Mr. C. Turner
5 Ditto, ditto	6 Aglaia, Mr. Lawrence

PREMIER PRIZES, SELECTED FROM THE WHOLE EXHIBITION.

Feathered Bizarre.—Royal Sovereign, exhibited by Dr. Sanders, of Staines.

Flamed Bizarre.—Selim, exhibited by Mr. C. Turner, Slough.

Feathered Byblæmen.—Gem, exhibited by Mr. Thomas Allestree, Draycott.

Flamed Byblæmen.—David, exhibited by Mr. Betteridge, Abingdon.

Feathered Rose.—Mary Lamb, exhibited by Mr. Thomas Allestree, Draycott.

Flamed Rose.—Lady Catherine Gordon, exhibited by Mr. Joseph Hunt, High Wycombe.

SIX BREEDERS, DISSIMILAR BLOOMS.

1st. Mr. Headly, with six seedlings.

2nd. Mr. C. Turner, with Juliet, Salvator Rosa, Princess Royal, Aid-de-Camp, Pilot, and Lady Stanley.

3rd. Mr. Joseph Hunt, with Willison's King, Maid of Orleans, Lady Stanley, Pilot, Countess of Harrington, and Juliet.

4th. Mr. Betteridge, with two seedlings, Pilot, Salvator Rosa, Juliet, and Sir Joseph Paxton.

First-class certificates to

Joseph Hunt, feathered bizarre,	{ Exhibited by Mr. Lawrence.
George Haywood, ditto,	
Robert Lawrence, feathered bizarre,	{ Exhibited by Mr. Josh. Hunt.
Sir G. H. Dashwood, ditto,	

CURRENT EVENTS.

BEFORE proceeding to the Gore House exhibition, I wish to recur to the Park-day, May 9th, as I hold that a full notice of these great meetings is not only a duty on the part of conductors of floral periodicals, but is the very best information that can be imparted to the readers thereof. "Current events," in my estimation, should ever form the staple commodity of such serials.

The stove and greenhouse collections comprised a total of one hundred and eighty-four specimens, and of

these, it is not too much to say, they were, with scarcely an exception, marvels of skilful management. Among the most effective subjects, I noticed *Epacris grandiflora*, *E. miniata*, and *E. miniata splendens*, *Eriostemon neriifolium*, *E. intermedium*, *E. scabrum*, *Boronia pinnata*, *B. serrulata*, *B. tetrandra*, *Ixora crocata*, *I. javanica*, *Leschenaultia formosa*, *L. bilboa*, *Aphelaxis macrantha purpurea*, *A. sesamoides*, *Pimelia spectabilis*, *P. lanata*, *Chorozema Henchmani*, *C. Lawrenceanum*, *C. Dixonii*, *Polygala oppositifolia*, *Stephanotis floribunda*, *Franciscea confertiflora*, *Daviesia umbellata*, *Dracophyllum gracile*, *Vinca rosea*, *Tetratheca verticillata*, *Adenandra speciosa*, *Gompholobium barbigerum*, *Rhyrchospermum jasminoides*, *Statice Holfordi*, *Hypocalymma robustum*, *Allamanda neriifolia*, *Medinilla magnifica*, *Cytisus recemosus*, *Hovea Celsi*, *Gardenia florida*, *Euphorbia splendens*, *Bossiæa condata*, and *Cyrtoceras reflexum*. Many of the foregoing were to be found in several collections. To these must be added ericas and azaleas, subjects ever prominent, even when in combination with such plants as are here enumerated. Of ericas, the leading sorts were, *elegans*, *Cavendishii*, *propendens*, *Sindryana*, *Hartnellii*, *pinifolia rosea*, *viridis*, *vestita alba*, *mundula*, *aristata major*, *denticulata moschata*, *favoides elegans*, *Macnabiana*, *perspicua nana*, *suaveolens*, and *Beaumonti*. This list illustrates the flowering sorts for early May. The best azaleas were, *Mureryana*, *variegata*, *Perryana*, *coronata*, *Iveryana*, *optima*, *speciosissima*, *exquisite*, *Gledstanesi*, *lateritia*, *semiduplex maculata*, *Minerva*, *Frosti*, *carnea grandiflora*, *delicata*, *Susanna*, *Napoleon*, and *Prince Albert*. Orchids and roses in pots were "the wonder of all."

Turning to pelargoniums, cinerarias, pansies, auriculas, and suchlike "common things," finer, perhaps, were never seen. In each and all of these, Mr. C. Turner, Royal Nursery, Slough, bore off the highest rewards. His twelve pelargoniums were justly termed the feature of the day; they were,

Carlos, Governor General, Easilisk, Lucy, Majestic, Rosamond, Exactum, Mochana, Clara, Rival Queen, Petruchio. Fancy varieties, by the same exhibiter—Madame Miellez, Delicatum, Gaiety, Formosissimum, Caliban, Electra. Cinerarias—Optima, Loveliness, Esther, Sir C. Napier, Lady Paxton, and Picturata. Pansies—Brilliant, British Queen, Uncle Tom, Monarch, Aurora, Ophir, Lord J. Russell, Marchioness of Bath, Satisfaction, Sovereign, Purple Perfection, Emperor, Royal Albert, Comet, Samson, Nonpareil, Sir J. Cathcart, Queen of the Isles, Primrose Perfection, Mrs. Marnock, Earl Mansfield, Royal Visit.

I will now go to the Horticultural Society's opening day, at Gore House, Kensington, May 16. Most of the principal subjects were reproduced from the Park show of the previous week, but so important were the additions, that I cannot hesitate to pronounce it, both for extent, variety, and excellence, by far the best which has been seen in May. Excepting only the absence of the Dartford collection, all else was perfect. The cause of that absence is a dark blot upon the management, and will ever stand as an illustration of the misrule and arbitrary proceedings of the council. Those who know the facts of the matter, know well that the management is totally in error, and so long as that error is unconfessed and unatoned, it cannot be wondered at that Mr. Colyer's plants are kept from the exhibitions of the Horticultural Society. Long as Gore House may fruitlessly seek to renew such an imposing scene as that presented on May 16th, yet nevertheless, few observers could fail to perceive that the prestige of the society was irrecoverably gone. The company was very limited, and so ungenerous is the character of the management felt to be, that on all sides a coolness is manifest. One fails to find that warmth for the welfare of the corporation even in its fellows, which belongs to other similar institutions. But to the plants. Such roses and such azaleas, positive mountains of flowers, "the oldest inhabitant" must fail to

remember. Some of the azaleas were fully eight feet high, by seven feet through,—literally all flowers, with a warmth of colour only to be obtained in their race. Roses were marvels of cultivation, yet to my mind needed a greater variety of colour, for, unlike the azalea, a rose bush exhibits a large amount of foliage, which, by house culture, assumes a pale tint, and therefore needs darker flowers than those generally produced. This observation must not be received as implying a reflection on the merit of the examples, than which finer have rarely been seen. Messrs. Lane & Son carried off the highest medals in both flowers; but to my thinking, the most interesting feature produced, was the group of new roses by Messrs. A. Paul & Son. These were growing in forty-eight and thirty-two-sized pots, and attracted the attention, as well they might, of everyone. The most desirable were Madame Hector Jaquin, Paul's Prince Albert, Leon Odier, Jules Margottin, Madame Philip, Paul Dupuy, Madame Duchere, Baronne de Kermont, Triomphe de Paris, Prince Leon, Leveson Gower, Glory of France, General Castellaine, and a seedling named Helen (Paul).

Turner's pelargoniums were again "grand," so much so that they elicited from that critical observer, Mr. E. Beck, the admission that twelve such plants were never before produced—faultless—as indeed they were, contrasting with those of his compeers markedly to their prejudice. The varieties were Carlos, Governor General, Basilisk, Queen of May, Lucy, Magnet, Rival Queen, Majestic, Magnificent, Clara, Exactum, and Sanspareil. Messrs. Dobson and Gaines made a poor display, in comparison; the latter exhibiter using several of the odious French novelties! a disgrace to any one assuming the name of florist.

Cinerarias were well done by Turner, Beck, and Dobson, the best of the sorts being Lady Paxton, Optima, Mrs. Sidney Herbert, Picturata, Teddington,

Amy Robsart, Lady Camoys, Agnes Wakefield, Eugenie, and Exquisite.

Pansies in pots were even better done than Turner ever previously had produced them, the plants being healthy, vigorous, close at home, abundantly flowered, and very well coloured, with large size; and these were from plants in barely six-inch pots. Of course they had first prize. His cut blooms, although uninvited, were deserving an acknowledgment, as were the collections of auriculas, but here, as elsewhere, merit does not ensure reward, deep-rooted prejudice standing in the way.

It may be interesting to observe, that of the florists' flowers produced at the two great meetings, at least one-half of the varieties had been certified by the National Floricultural Society, a rather strong comment upon some of the assumptions which have been laid at the door of this body.

EXTRACTS, HINTS, AND RECOLLECTIONS.

THE CRYSTAL PALACE SHOW.

A DEAR old friend, the loss of whose society we have now to deplore, once, when having failed to reply distinctly upon the subject under discussion, we excused ourselves on the ground that we were unable to express our ideas, remarked to us, "Do not deceive yourself,—ideas are far more rare than words, and it is not because you have no words, but because you have no ideas, that words are not at your command."

We must, therefore, suppose we have no ideas, for we must confess we find the greatest difficulty in delineating the emotions which possessed us during a recent visit to this inimitable building. Circumstances had conspired to prevent our visiting the

Palace during last summer, and it was therefore with eager anticipation we prepared to spend a day within its precincts, on the occasion of the grand horticultural fete. Our journey was made amidst rain, and fog, and gloom, most chilling to the expectation of a fine day for the display, and when, late at night, we reached the neighbourhood of the Palace, wayworn and weary, it was to find every bed engaged, and sleeping accommodation impossible. Nothing depressed, however, we philosophically resigned ourselves to this evil, and with busy chat, amid a large party of friends similarly circumstanced, whiled away the hours and our fatigue, until at length the dawn enabling us to enter the Palace, afforded us new subjects for speculation and admiration. And surely early morning must be most appropriate for seeing this glorious work of genius. Who unmoved could watch its vast dimensions gradually unfolded, as the grey mists enshrouding it slowly rolled away? Who scan its noble proportions, its gracefulness, its nicely toned colouring, its mighty lines of iron running away, until in the far perspective they assumed the appearance of a spider's web in their delicate tracery,—who could see all this, and watch effect after effect, produced as the sun's rays touched first one portion and then another of its crystal covering, without experiencing sensations of the grandest delight? For ourselves, we drank in deeply of the scene, and our emotions were truly those of overpowering admiration. But possibly some of our readers will think we should come to the subject of the show, and confine ourselves to that which is more immediately in our province. Let us be excused,—each belonged to the other, and either might singly be recited as the wonder of the world. Where else could be found miles of table-room filled with plants, with very few exceptions, inimitable in their development? In such a quantity, individual criticism is totally impossible, within the limits of our work, and we can only notice the general features. First and most prominent of these was the new feature, intro-

duced by the company, of offering prizes, thirty pounds downwards, for the best thirty plants, in or out of flower, *grouped for effect*. Again and again, in our visits to exhibitions, both large and small, we have lamented the neglect of this, and we were therefore delighted to observe that now, from individual excellences we were to advance a step, and touch upon combinations. And admirably, for a first effort, the invitation was responded to, though we confess to some feeling of disappointment that the success belonged wholly to the "trade," whilst the professional man, he from whom we should look naturally to produce daily effects, for the delight of his employers, was left far in arrear. But we do not despair. Once upon the right track, and when he finds that it is not alone in faultless flowering bushes that beauty is to be found, and that even their beauty is to be largely increased by the judicious use of foliage, erect, pendulous, flowing, or stiff, the British gardener is so keen, so apt, and persevering, that we make no doubt it shall go hard but he will better the instructions. Messrs. Veitch & Son's and Rolison & Sons' groups of plants were indeed noble subjects of study, both for their beauty and management. After these, though not behind them, the glorious bank of orchids, nearly eighty yards in length, rests in our memory; then the pelargoniums, from Slough, absolute marvels of management. Let not our readers suppose these alone were "*points*." We might talk by the hour, and then leave hundreds untouched. But the above, we are sure, must have been felt by all;—the first, for the important results attained and to come; the orchids, for their individual and collective beauty; the pelargoniums, for their unrivalled development.

Grand, however, as the exhibition was, we shall look for more perfect results in future. The distribution of various classes was very injudicious, and eminently prejudicial to their "effect." This must be corrected.

Then, grand as in a commercial point, and in many other points of view, it undoubtedly is to have twenty thousand guinea visitors, the exhibition is not half developed, when it shuts out the "shilling" multitude. Why not have a *second day*? The Palace is the very home of the plants, and they might be retained there any number of days uninjured. What is there, therefore, to prevent the people getting *their* lesson, and the company their shillings?

Another suggestion we have to make. These exhibitions should not be confined to a brief circuit around the metropolis. Beneficially to affect gardening, facilities should be offered to gardeners at a distance, be it long or short. This facility can only be obtained by the carrying of their productions *free*, on all the great lines of railroad, and we appeal to Sir Joseph Paxton to obtain for them that boon. Large as are the prizes, they would not cover the cost of transit from a long distance, and gardeners, though eagerly emulous, are not a rich class of men. Let there be a shilling day, and special trains, and the railroads and the Crystal Palace Company will be paid tenfold.

The effect of the fountains was eminently novel and pleasing, and everyone seemed delighted with the result. Nevertheless, those who are familiar with the magnificent works at Chatsworth, and who had seen the preparations, yet incomplete, in the lower basins, could not but perceive that not one-tithe of the ultimate effect was there exhibited, and that ultimate effect may be imagined, when we say *six* cascades will take the place of *one* at Chatsworth, whilst the jets will be multiplied five hundred-fold!

THE CRYSTAL PALACE.

[From "*The Times*," of June 4.]

ALAS for the glories of Chiswick and of the other metropolitan flower shows! Sydenham takes the shine out of them all. Without any extraordinary preparation, and in an easy off-hand

way, the Palace accommodates a horticultural display, for extent and splendour, far surpassing anything of the kind that has ever been seen in this country before. Nothing is displaced or put out of order, or even inconvenienced by it. It is only that the building is a little more dressed, a little more *en grande tenue* on the occasion. Two long rows of gracefully canopied stands in the nave, and two more in the open corridors overlooking the terrace-garden, and the arrangements are complete. Fill these with the finest specimens of the choicest plants and flowers that can be collected by botanical research from the most distant regions of the world, bring around an admiring throng of some twenty thousand gaily-dressed people, and when the animation of the spectacle is at its height, take everybody out into the Park, and let the fountains play. Such, in brief terms, was the programme of the *fête* at Sydenham, on Saturday. It was a show made up of the simplest yet most excellent materials for tranquil and innocent enjoyment. There was no wild excitement of pleasure-seeking—people were able to feel happy and yet to have a sense of agreeable repose combined with it. They had come to look at the flowers and at each other—to live for a few hours in the presence of beautiful objects, and by the contemplation of them, to freshen up the “flat, stale, and unprofitable” corners of their existence. Even the ministers of the crown, who, in the cabinet councils, sit awfully brooding over the affairs of the state, could not lose the opportunity, and their usual Saturday afternoon meeting stood over till a later period in the evening, that they might attend. We hear strange tales of the ubiquity of Russian spies, but if there was one in the Palace on Saturday, and if the pursuit of his avocation was practicable in such a scene, he might have reported to his imperial master, that the British minister of war was seen taking a mighty interest in certain beds of fancy geraniums, quite excited about some very splendid azaleas, and not indifferent to the claims even of the heaths and ferns upon his admiration. It was expected at one time that the Queen would have honoured the show with her presence. She did not come, however, and so far the occasion wanted that nameless grace and influence which a visit from her majesty never fails to impart. Prince Albert came instead, and her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent was also there in the course of the day. Of the nobility and aristocracy there was an extraordinary muster, and conspicuous among them his Grace the Duke of Devonshire, to whose passion for flowers horticulture owes so much of its recent progress. It may help to form some idea of the success which attended this show—and the fact certainly speaks volumes for the refinement of taste among our wealthier classes—that there were, on Saturday, at Sydenham, no less than seven thousand carriages. The police declare that they have never seen so many conveyances collected together in one spot before.

Flowers and waterworks go well together, and as the component parts of a popular display, one can hardly fancy a fairer companionship. It is his exquisite appreciation of this which leads even the rude Turk to carve the rose and the tulip in relief upon his fountains. But we tender our homage to the same idea in a grander style, one, indeed, which seems to give this country a better claim than any other to the title of "the flowery land." Consider what the show of Saturday really was. It was all the educated feeling and refined taste of the metropolis going so many miles out of town, there, in a magnificent palace conservatory, to admire the chief triumphs of modern gardening. It was not alone that the finest specimens of plants in the collections of amateurs and nurserymen within reach of London had been brought under contribution, that the floras of the most distant regions were represented—botanic beauties ravished by our travelled naturalists from China, and the islands of the Indian Archipelago, and Australia, and the Cape of Good Hope, and the high valleys of the Himalaya, and the half-explored territories of the New World. Wonderful as these are, and extraordinary as that perfection of industry and skill must appear, which, under our clouded and uncertain skies, imparts to those lovely productions, a splendour unknown to them in their native homes, still all this is not sufficient to give the show of Saturday its full significance; nor was it the waterworks, imposing as is the effect of the portion of them now finished. The visiter clubbed everything together in his mind,—the Palace itself, with its courts, and sculpture, and rising greenery—the Park, with its terraces, slopes, lakes, and fountains; and as he remembered that these, as well as the elaborately trained and cultivated flowers were all the products of modern gardening, well might he speculate with surprised interest upon the remarkable progress of an art which has accomplished such marvels. It seemed, indeed, as if the true character and scope of the new institution at Sydenham had never before been so distinctly defined, and one rejoiced to see its perfect adaptation to objects for which the people will always have an enduring sympathy. Whatever our defects in taste may be, and however strongly the rude current of our Saxon blood may set towards the vulgar, the stolid, and the unimaginative, undoubtedly we have a passionate admiration for the beauties of the garden. Our carpets, our hangings, our walls, our furniture, and even our garments, are as profusely decorated with flowers as if we lived under the brightest and sunniest of eastern skies; nor, in that respect at least, if in others, are we altogether undeserving of the title which our cousins over the water have fastened upon us, that we are "the Chinamen of the west." Notwithstanding our climate, we are the best gardeners in the world. Indeed, we may claim to be the only gardeners, for nowhere else in Europe is horticulture within a century of the stage of advancement which it has

reached among us ; and even here, it is a hundred years at least in the van of general agriculture. One certainly may regard it as among the most remarkable paradoxes of industrial life, that this damp and cheerless climate should be able not only to produce fruits of a quality and size unknown in their tropical homes, but from a few parent stocks, not very remarkable for their native brilliancy, to develop endless varieties of the loveliest flowers. Who that allowed his eye to wander delightedly, on Saturday, over the gorgeous display of azaleas, would fancy that these had all been obtained from three or four originals? and so with the pelargoniums, the cacti, the rhododendrons, and many other plants. The gardener will marry one species, obtained, perhaps, from the Himalaya, to another from the Rocky Mountains. He is a rare match-maker, and singularly fortunate, if we may judge by the results. In his domain, there are no ill-assorted unions, and he alone of all the experimentalists appears to have approached nearest to those fountains of theoretic truth upon which the propagation of organic life depends. To those who understand the physiology of plants, it cannot be wonderful that in all ages they have been recognized as breathing a refined and spiritualizing influence over the mind ; but, judging by Saturday's display, at no period in the world's history has that influence been developed more strongly than now, and among no people more decidedly than in us. Once before, gardening was something more than we have been accustomed to think it. We cannot, at this remote period, determine what share it took in founding, as far back as the time of the Pharaohs, the solemn proportions of Egyptian architecture ; but there are the forms of the pillars and capitals, and the constant use of the papyrus plant as an ornament, amid many other evidences, to indicate that there were Paxtons in those days also. And now the old connexion between art and architecture, and industry and the beauties of nature, revives once more, under the influence of the garden. The various divergent lines of human occupation are again united in one building, which is a bazaar, a museum, a gallery, a workshop, a *café*, and a promenade, as well as a conservatory, although, most of all, a conservatory. The binding cement of all these various aims and attractions, is the commercial principle upon which the whole is based, and we can only hope that it will prove sufficiently strong to hold them together. Is there not good reason to believe so, with the fact of twenty thousand guinea visitors brought to the Palace on one day, to admire the flowers, and to see the play of the half-finished waterworks ?

With reference to the classification and arrangement of plants, much the same system was adopted on Saturday as has been observed elsewhere, on similar occasions, but it was not difficult to perceive that this plan is extremely faulty, and may be very

much improved. Thus, for example, the azaleas and heaths straggled all over the building, instead of being seen together, affording in that way facilities for contrast and for the grouping of colours. The orchids, the geraniums, pansies, roses, and tulips, were much more compactly arranged, and were seen to corresponding advantage. It was more to be regretted that the azaleas especially were not shown in a class by themselves, from the extraordinary magnificence of the specimens. But when the next exhibition takes place, we have no doubt that some important changes in this respect will be made, and that proper means will be adopted to avoid the defects now not so much complained of as pointed out, with a view to the application of a remedy. With these qualifying observations, we cannot speak in too high terms of the floral exhibition on Saturday. Both in extent and quality, it exceeded the most sanguine expectations. There was not only an unrivalled show of old plants, but a great display also of new and rare specimens; and the admiration of the orchids especially was universal and unanimous. To enter at all minutely into the details of the exhibition would be at once tedious and unprofitable; nor should we like to undertake the task of pronouncing between the *Phalænopsis grandiflora* and *Lilium giganteum* of one man and of another, between rival *Dendrobia saccolabia cattlyae* and gloxinias. Yet, let us not forget to mention, among the curiosities of the show, having seen, in a moderate-sized flower-pot, a specimen of the *Wellingtonia gigantea*, the parent tree of which, we are told, was three hundred feet high, thirty feet in diameter, and supposed to be three thousand years old. May the young sapling grow great and live as long. The prize-list, no doubt, does justice as between individuals; nor can it be denied, seeing that the prizes amount in the aggregate to upwards of one thousand pounds, that the company have commenced these shows with praiseworthy liberality. For the rest, the public, as represented by the visitors, seemed thoroughly well satisfied with their day's amusement.

After feasting their eyes upon the flowers and fruit, at half-past four o'clock, the public turned out upon the terraces and grand staircases of the Park, to see the fountains play, and seldom has a finer or more animated spectacle been presented, than by those thousands of gaily dressed people, distributed on the green slopes and spacious avenues of that noble Italian garden, listening to the music of the bands stationed at intervals in the grounds, and watching for the first gush of the waters. There was about the whole scene that abundant air of wealthy refinement and ease which one sees nowhere else but in England, and which never recurs without reminding us how much we owe to those free institutions which give us internal prosperity, and to that insular position which protects us from foreign invasion. A second and more deliberate view of the

fountains than could be obtained on the occasion of the Emperor's visit, has increased the favourable estimate we then formed of them, and our anticipations of what the whole hydraulic system will be, when completed. They played for nearly forty minutes, and everybody seemed immensely pleased at the effect produced. But, in point of fact, what was seen on Saturday forms but a small and inconsiderable portion of what will shortly be in operation. The lower series of water-works comprises no less than twenty thousand jets, extending over basins half a mile in length. Fancy, therefore, how grand it will be, when this overwhelming addition is made to the present display. Until it is completed, one will not be able to judge accurately of the skill with which the details of the different fountains have been composed; but they appear to have been very carefully thought out; and the two immediately fronting the main entrance are particularly remarkable for their gracefulness.

THE PHILOSOPHY OF FLORISTS' FLOWERS,

[*Reprinted from the Florist for 1849.*]

No. IV.

IN my former letters I have been occupied in the comparatively easy task of criticising the objections made by others. I now come to the more hazardous one of building up a system myself, and giving the objectors the opportunity of treating me as I have treated them; and in truth, I invite, or rather request them to do so. That there is a scientific system at the bottom of the ordinary estimates of flowers, I have long been convinced; and if I do not succeed in developing it, the fault will be in these papers, which, therefore, I should wish to be found fault with, because there is now an ample sufficiency of facts accumulated for the science of floriculture to be thence ascertained, and to take its place with other established systems. It is time for some one to do it, if I should fail.

I proceed, therefore, to point out more particularly my view of the scientific principles on which the general agreement among florists, in what should be

considered points of excellence in their flowers, is based. After which, I purpose to apply those principles to some of the flowers, as a specimen of what is required in all for an acknowledged standard, to be referred to both by growers and judges; premising, however, that I have not the arrogance to propose this essay as such a standard: nor could it be, for the principles themselves must first be sifted by criticism, both friendly and unfriendly, until *some* principles are established and recognized, and not till then can such a manual be compiled. But this may serve as a first attempt towards it,—to attract others into the same path, in order to weed out what is unsound, to prune what is amiss, and to supply what is wanting. It will also serve to show that there are defined and certain boundaries, within which are confined respectively the province of science, within which there will always be agreement, and the province of taste, which admits of infinite diversity.

And I am pleased at seeing the increase of instances of persons conversant with the details of such matters, and who probably have not turned their attention to the modes by which their judgments have been influenced, feeling their way intelligibly and successfully to the very points which reasoning will demonstrate to be the true points of ideal excellence. Mr. Kendall has, in a recent number of the *Florist*, given us the properties of a good cineraria; and, as far as he has gone, if he had studied Aristotle and the metaphysicians, he could not have done it better. His guide probably was the experience of a practised and interested eye. It will be the province of these essays to show by reason that he is right in every particular.

The end proposed by the Creator in the arrangement and colours of the petals of a flower, is that which is pleasant to the eye; and the two means by which this is produced are FORM and COLOUR.

FORM is available in two respects—*absolute*, or direct, which is sought for its own sake; in that

some forms are in their nature more pleasing than others, as a curve is more graceful than a straight line, and some curves than others: and *relative*, or indirect, which is subsidiary to some other purpose; in that some forms are better suited than others to set off colours to advantage, as a smooth petal exhibits its markings more perfectly than a wrinkled one can.

COLOUR is simply for its own sake; but it produces its effect in two ways—by *contrast*, as in painting, light appears to be thrown upon any point by placing a shadow beside it; and by *combination*, as purple unites harmoniously with either of its constituent elements, red or blue, while green will hardly unite with any other. Combination, moreover, may take place in three ways: where each is preserved, as when one colour shades off imperceptibly into another; where distinctness begins to be lost by partial fusion, as in the clouded colours; and where the separate elements blend into an uniform new tint, as in the endless diversity of compound colours.

These are the few and elementary principles on which, with the latitude to be allowed for tastes, which will be defined hereafter, depends the effect of any flower in pleasing the eye. And it will be found that these principles are strictly scientific, and reducible to rules capable of application to each species of flower, so as to determine, in a great and ascertainable measure, the value of any variety of each species.

And, in fact, it is because there is so much of scientific rule, founded in nature, in the pursuits of florists, that there has been that large amount of agreement among them, which we find to have obtained in a matter which is vulgarly believed to be a mere matter of individual taste and caprice.

FORM or shape is the *figuré* contained by a limiting outline. And it is the outline which for the most part suggests to the mind the idea represented by the figure, as has been demonstrated by Retsch, in his celebrated illustrations of the German and English poets.

An outline may be either *general*, of the whole flower under consideration, as the cup of a tulip; or *subordinate*, as being contained with others within the general outline, as that of the blotch in the petal of a pelargonium. This distinction it is necessary to enlarge upon, because, in judging of excellences or defects, what in the former would be a fault, in the latter would be a beauty. The two kinds of outline having different offices to fulfil, require different properties for their perfection.

For subordinate outlines being always appended to, and controlled by, the leading idea of the whole flower, admit, with manifest advantage, departures from perfect forms, which would be intolerable in the general one. Thus the eye of a pansy, if clear and not confused, is striking in proportion as it is made up of bold dashes and abrupt contrasts, presenting an uneven outline, which, if found in the flower which contains the eye, would condemn it to the dunghill.

These and other similar instances, presenting at first a difficulty to reconcile them with rule, and reduce them to order, are, in fact, no exceptions. They are examples of what our experience in everything is full of, that as in the material world every particle of matter is under the influence of an infinity of attractions on every side, the amount of each of which is nevertheless subject to an invariable law, and therefore the inclination of the particle towards any is reducible to the strictest scientific investigation; so, in the intellectual world, what are commonly supposed to be exceptions, are, in reality, only instances of the things coming within the superior influence of some other rule. Every rule is paramount in its own little circle: but that circle is in every case very small, because there are other rules on the subject which have an equal claim to be obeyed in their place, the interfering influences of which must have their due weight allowed to them.

It is a great mistake, and dishonourable to God as well as to ourselves, indolently to rest satisfied with

calling so many things "exceptions," as we are in the habit of doing. An exception is, for the most part, only an expression of our ignorance. Real exceptions are much rarer than they are supposed to be. Our minds were made for order; and however our habits may seem to contradict the assertion, it is still a fact, bearing evidence of our high original and destination, that disorder is unnatural to us. And this may be seen, not only in the natural preference always in the long-run shown for scientifically perfect forms, but also in the mode in which we unconsciously form our judgments of them. Thus, in examining a flower, we may not be aware of the fact, but it is not the less true, that we proceed according to strict rule and method. First, we obtain a leading idea, excited by the whole, as made up of and containing its parts. Next, we begin to separate those parts into their respective groups; and as our examination is extended or repeated, subdividing those again into their more elementary units. And as we become more familiar and better acquainted with the object of examination, this process is reviewed and altered, and the divisions and subdivisions recast into other groupings arising out of, or suggesting, new and other ideas. So that we may often perceive, as we contemplate a flower, new ideas and associations arising in our minds, and actually, as it were, changing its appearance in our eyes, and altering our judgment of it. Hence an extended familiarity with any flower is necessary before its characteristic points will be discovered, and its most natural divisions and peculiarities definitively settled. But when this process has been sufficiently gone through, the judgment will in most cases be found to be in accordance with nature, and will be generally acquiesced in. And a much earlier and more perfect agreement may be expected when the natural principles, in accordance with which our preferences are formed, are known and understood.

There is, then, always one leading idea suggested by any flower, controlled by the general outline of its form, and the disposition of its principal parts. This

is the characteristic of the flower, to which all its other properties must be subservient. It is not always easy to express in words what this idea is, though when there is some other thing with which we are familiar to serve as an illustration, there is no difficulty. Thus the idea of a tulip is a painted cup, and that of a dahlia or a ranunculus is a variegated rosette.

And as the general outline takes the lead in the impression produced by a flower, a defective form in it cannot be compensated, because there is nothing of equal value, by a counter-excellence, in which it might be balanced. If, therefore, that outline be not full and graceful, the flower must needs be faulty. Such is the native pansy, and therefore its improvement depended on first bringing its general form into what it may now be said to have obtained, a near resemblance to a circle. The cineraria is still defective in this, from its outline consisting of points. And therefore its improvement, on the supposition of its containing a single flower, first demands the rounding off of its petals. Whether it would be improved, if rendered double, is a question, on the solution of which something will be said, when treating of the principle of variety. And thus much in the outset concerning outlines, general and subordinate.

IOTA.

[To be continued.]

TULIP SHOW.

At Mr. I. Wasnidge's, Crown Inn, Nottingham. June 1.

. Best Six, one feathered and one flamed and feathered in each class.—Rose Aglaia, Heroine, Sovereign, Pilot, Chieftain, and unknown. J. Hedderley.
2nd. Rosa Blanca, Queen Charlotte, Royal Sovereign, Bromley's Truth, Rose Aglaia, and Lady Douro. W. R. Lymbery. 3rd. Magnum Bonum, Captain White, Baguet, Queen Charlotte, Nymph, Rose Aglaia, J. Spencer.

Feathered Bizarres.

Premier—Royal Sovereign, Lymbery.

- 1 Royal Sovereign, Brown
- 2 Paul Pry, Hammond
- 3 Magnum Bonum, Brown
- 4 Catafalque, Hedderley
- 5 Vivid, Lymbery
- 6 Duke of Devonshire, Frearson
- 7 Charles Jeffery, Battersby
- 8 Surpasse Catafalque, Spencer
- 9 Strong's King, Lymbery
- 10 Regulator, ditto

Flamed Bizarres.

Premier—Captain White, Brown.

- 1 Captain White, Battersby
- 2 Pilot, Burdigan
- 3 Truth, Lymbery
- 4 Lord Milton, Hammond
- 5 Merit, Marshall
- 6 Grandeur, Spencer
- 7 Polyphemus, Burdigan
- 8 Sir J. Paxton, Lymbery
- 9 Sir Sidney Smith, Spencer
- 10 Catafalque, Elston

*Feathered Byblæmens.*Premier—Queen of Sherwood,
Battersby.

- 1 Sancta Sophia, Lymbery
- 2 Nepaulese Prince, ditto
- 3 Hepton's Sarah, ditto
- 4 Gem, Brown
- 5 Abbot's Gem, Lymbery
- 6 Joe Maltby, ditto
- 7 David, ditto
- 8 Maid of Orleans, Pickerell
- 9 Baguet, Beck
- 10 Miss Sarah, Hammond

Flamed Byblæmens.

Premier—Queen Charlotte, Lymbery.

- 1 Lymbery's Lorenzo, Lymbery
- 2 Baguet, Elston
- 3 Criterion, Clark
- 4 Mentor, Battersby
- 5 Princess Royal, Edwards
- 6 Bacchus, Lymbery
- 7 Queen Charlotte, Brown
- 8 Salvator Rosa, ditto
- 9 Professor, Pickerell
- 10 Lord Denman, Lymbery

Feathered Roses.

Premier—Heroine, Hedderley.

- 1 Premier, Brown
- 2 Comte de Vergennes, Harpham
- 3 Lady Clifton, Lymbery
- 4 Aglaia, Battersby
- 5 Hero of the Nile, Pickerell
- 6 Agnes Creswell, Lymbery

- 7 Miss Clark, Clark
- 8 No. 44, Wasnidge
- 9 Miss Grace, Harpham
- 10 Not awarded

Flamed Roses.

Premier—Aglaia, Lymbery.

- 1 Aglaia, Hammond
- 2 Camillus, Battersby
- 3 Lady Wilder, Brown
- 4 Triomphe Royale, Hedderley
- 5 Flambeau, Harpham
- 6 Unknown, Brown
- 7 La Vandicken, Lymbery
- 8 Not awarded
- 9 Ditto
- 10 Ditto

Seedlings.

(Rectified Flowers.)

- 1 Herald (feathered biz.) Battersby
- 2 Queen of Sherwood (feathered byblæmen), ditto
- 3 Saxon (feathered bizarre), ditto
- 4 Telegraph (feathered biz.), ditto
- 5 Mayflower (feathered byblæmen), Lymbery

Breeders.

- 1 Lord Derby, Lymbery
- 2 Telegraph, Battersby
- 3 27, ditto
- 4 Sobraon, ditto
- 5 Seedling, No. 1, Frearson
- 6 Ditto, ditto

FLOWERS, ETC. RECEIVED SINCE OUR LAST REPORT.

CINERARIAS.—I. P. R.—A cineraria should not reflex. The blooms, from the want of a little cotton wadding, to keep them firm in the tin box in which they were sent, were much injured, and past forming any accurate opinion upon, but, from what we could see, we thought Nos. 1, 6, and 8 worth growing. The others worthless.

PANSY.—JOHN HOLLAND, *Middleton, Manchester.*—*Earl of Cardigan.*—A first-class flower. Yellow ground, with broad margin and upper petals of rich crimson purple; eye bold and well displayed; good average size, good substance, and very smooth.

POLYANTHUS.—WM. THOMPSON, *Morpeth.*—*Lord Collingwood.*—Superior to former truss sent, but we still retain our opinion that it is coarse.

Seedling No. 1.—Dark red or marone ground, of fair average quality.

No. 2.—Dark ground. Rich, smooth, and very promising.

No. 3.—Dark ground. Of good size, but wanting refinement. The tube is also too large.

No. 4.—Dark ground. Tube rather large, of average quality.

No. 5.—Dark crimson ground. Rich colour. As sent, too small. Tube too large in proportion.

No. 6.—Large pip, but of second-rate quality. Tube too open.

TULIPS.—R. M.—*Sir John Cathcart, Wrestler, Magnet, Virgo, Herodotus, Tryon, and Indicator*, flamed bizarres, possess superior properties, and when fully rectified, will, we are satisfied, be most admirable additions to the class. *Herodotus* is our favourite, partaking, as it does, the excellences of both of its parents, Polyphemus and Strong's King.

Balaklava, Admiral Bruat, Earl of Cardigan, Canrobert, Alma, Sir Edmund Lyons, Inkermann, and Dauntless, bizarre breeders; *Nina*, rose breeder; and *Giurgevo* and *Silistria*, bybloemen breeders, from their substance, purity, and form, combined with their *high breed*, cannot fail to bring most excellent and novel varieties. We think you have indeed reason to be satisfied with your lot.

HINTS FOR THE MONTH.

FLORISTS' FLOWERS.

ARICULAS.—A shady situation will still be most suitable for these. During the present month there will be a pause in their growth, there should, therefore, be a correspondingly diminished supply of water. Pick off all decaying foliage, and keep clear of insects. To those who practice early potting, no time should be lost in getting the necessary soils ready.

CALCEOLARIAS.—Shading from burning sun, and a copious supply of moisture, and keeping clear from their great enemy, the greenfly, is all that these require. Seed should be saved from the best varieties. The young shoots or offsets may be taken off, and, if placed in a light sandy compost, they will not be difficult to strike.

CARNATIONS AND PICOTEEES.—A general attention to the stock will daily be needed, tying up some, and disbudding others; but bear in mind that this must be regulated by the habit of the variety with which you are dealing. This is one of the grand secrets of carnation growing. One universal receipt does not suit all. Keep clear of greenfly. If the weather be dry, water freely with rain water, or water which has been exposed to the sun and air for several hours; and an occasional watering with weak liquid manure will be beneficial.

As the pods advance, see they are prevented from bursting, easing the side opposite to that which is likely to split. Small strips of matting are recommended for tying.

CINERARIAS.—Early raised seedlings should now be potted off; this also applies to early raised stock. Sow seed for a succession. Keep clear of insects, and shade from midday sun.

DAHLIAS.—Those intended to produce flowers for competition will require now to have their principal branches trained to the side stakes, so as to admit of light and air to all parts of the plants, and all shoots that are not wanted, pinched back with the finger and thumb, as soon as they can be got at. Water over the foliage, with soft water, in dry weather, every evening. Earwigs and slugs cannot be looked after too early or perseveringly.

EPACRIS.—Attend to the regulation of the young growth of these, tying them out as occasion requires.

ERICAS.—Little need be added to our last month's directions; keep clean, and attend to the necessary watering.

FUCHSIAS.—Encourage flowering plants, by occasional supplies of liquid manure, tying out and regulating the branches as they require it. Plants for late bloom should have their final shift, and buds pinched off should they appear.

HOLLYHOOKS.—See that these are securely tied to their stakes—set early traps for their enemy, the earwig, and when set, do not neglect to attend to them. Cuttings should be put in as often as they can be taken from the bottom of the side shoots.

PANSIES.—These are now past their best. A north aspect suits these best at this season of the year; if kept in such a situation, and daily attended to, good flowers may be had even as late as September. Let a continual supply of good stock be propagated.

PELARGONIUMS.—Some of the early-flowered plants may probably now require cutting down. Leave at least three breaking eyes on each shoot. Keep the plants tolerably dry before as well as after cutting down, for a short time. Shade those still in flower.

PINKS.—These will, during this month, be in full beauty, which will be much prolonged by a judicious application of shade. Towards the middle of the month, piping may be proceeded with, selecting for the purpose an old melon or cucumber bed, or some situation where slight bottom heat is at command. Seed, to be secured against wet, should be protected with small glasses, placed over such pods as are most likely and desirable to seed.

TULIPS.—As the foliage begins to show evident symptoms of decay, these should be taken up; by no means expose the bulbs to the sun, giving them plenty of air, but in a dry and cool situation.

CALENDAR OF OPERATIONS,

FOR JULY.

[From Rendle's Price Current and Garden Directory.]

EVERYTHING now should be in full vigour, and the grounds having been thoroughly cleaned during May and June, the diligent cultivator will be rewarded by both present and prospective profits. Hoes and spades will still be in request, and one of the most important matters, this month, is to get out liberal breadths of winter and spring celery, which should be finished before the middle, if possible. Endive sowing, too, is peculiarly a July affair; at the beginning, middle, and end, three sowings, will provide this useful adjunct of the salad bowl, from September till the succeeding April. Those who want to produce unusually fine crops, for special purposes, should use liquid manure liberally, when the plant is in full growth. Asparagus may have copious supplies, this month, and nearly a handful of salt may be added to every gallon of the liquid. In all watering, let the soil be thoroughly penetrated: there is little use in "dribbling," and if the soil is "caked" on the surface, apply the water in frequent and small doses, until it is penetrated.

TURNIPS.—If not already sown, let them be put in at once.

CELERY.—Continue to plant out for main crop. The same directions as were given last month applies to the present.

SCARLET RUNNERS.—Support with sticks, if not already done.

POTATOES.—Earth up, so as to cover the tubers, and give them room to swell, as well as keep the ridges dry.

SPINACH.—Continue to sow according to demand. A sowing of winter spinach should be made the latter end of the month.

BEANS (BROAD).—Top those coming into flower, as previously recommended.

PEAS.—Make the last sowing of late tall sorts; should the weather continue mild in the autumn, they will be useful.

BORECOLE, BROCCOLI, BRUSSELS SPROUTS, SAVOY, AND THE VARIOUS SORTS OF KALE AND CABBAGE.—Plant out without delay; fill up all vacancies that occur by the removal of early crops, and on ground that will be shortly cleared, always taking the advantage of showery weather for transplanting.

ENDIVE.—Plant out, to secure for early supply. Sow more seed, particularly of the Batavian or broad-leaved kinds.

SHALLOTS AND GARLIC.—Take up and lay in the sun, to dry, in order to store away.

HERBS.—Cut and dry, for winter use.

ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

REMARKS ON THE AURICULA BLOOM OF 1855.

THE auricula, with its beautifully powdered flowers, is one of the rarest of Flora's gems. The rich and varied colours which it possesses—especially in the classes called selfs and alpines—added to its exquisite fragrance, render it one of the most delightful and fascinating of florists' flowers. It is also one of our earliest visitors in spring, for even before winter is past, and while frost and snow is yet with us, it begins to expand its leaves, and no sooner has spring made us fully aware of her approach, than the auricula expands its lovely flowers, and the air is redolent with its delightful fragrance. This property, with many, makes it a greater favourite than any other florists' flower. Though flowers of more gorgeous character succeed it,—as the tulip, dahlia, &c., yet I believe there is not one which combines so many sterling qualities as the auricula. In perfume, it equals the rose or the lily; it is of most beautiful habit, and it possesses the widest range of colours in the whole catalogue of florists' flowers.

In the spring of 1855, one of the coldest on record, we have had a most unfavourable season for blooming the auricula. The ungenial weather which prevailed almost unremittingly up to the period of the bloom, was against the development of fine flowers. They were retarded also at least three weeks beyond their usual time of flowering. But notwithstanding all these drawbacks, there were some magnificent flowers, which were really worth noticing. First in green edges was the old favourite, *Leigh's Colonel Taylor*, which, in the estimation of many, stands at the head of the class. It has, however, two defects: the pips are too starry or angular,

and the paste is rather thin or deficient in density. I have seen it on one or two occasions without either of these faults. It was very fine, and no collection should be without it. *Page's Champion* was also in magnificent character. It has a rich violet ground colour, and a bright green edge, and I should say is the best flower in this class. The pips are round and flat, the tube, however, is not quite round. *Litton's Imperator* and *Booth's Freedom*, usually so fine with us, were this year quite the reverse. I did not see a good bloom of either. I was much pleased with *Barlow's King*, an old variety. It has a fine dense paste, quite round dark ground, and good green edge. Then there was *Howard's Lord Nelson*, another old variety, also well done. A dark green edge, black ground colour, and fine yellow tube. The paste, however, is rather coarse. *Beeston's Apollo* is much in the way of this variety, and, I think, no improvement; the tube is too pale, and the plant is apt to throw too many offsets, so that it is difficult to keep a fine plant. *Clegg's Lady Blucher* is a light green edge, with fine paste and rich yellow tube; the pips are, however, rather dentated. A nice variety is *Lightbody's Lord Lynedoch*. The pips are beautifully round and flat, with fine dense paste and dark ground colour. *Lightbody's Sir J. Moore* was in no character at all, nearly approaching a white edge, and is, I fear, a sportive variety. Another first-rate sort is *Hudson's Apollo*, much in the style of Colonel Taylor, but with rounder pips. *Hepworth's Robin Hood* was very fine and distinct. The tube is rather too pale. *Falkner's Ne plus ultra*, a very old sort, was regular and neat, and is yet a match for many new ones. *Ashton's Prince of Wales* was also very fine. It has a very rich yellow tube, dense paste, and fine green edge; the ground dark, but rather narrow.

In grey edges, there were some capital flowers. At the head of the class stands *Cheetham's Lancashire Hero*, but unfortunately it is a late variety. I had it

in good bloom till June 10th. *Kenyon's Ringleader*, however, is its equal, when it can be caught in fine character, but it unfortunately has one great fault,—it is so difficult to get it expanded. It requires very fine and warm weather. These two varieties, in proper character, are very near approaches to perfection. Another first-class flower is *Sykes's Complete*, and, as a variety to depend upon for exhibition, superior to the two varieties previously mentioned. It is very neat. Its only fault is the tube being rather green. *Fletcher's Mary Ann* is always fine. It has a very fine paste, and the edge, in my estimation, the most distinct grey in the whole class. If Lancashire Hero possessed the fine paste and distinct edge of this variety, nothing more could be desired. *Fletcher's Ne plus ultra* is a very large variety, and was very fine. It is rather unsteady, but when caught, it is a magnificent flower. It has a fine grey edge and dark ground colour, but the pips are rather dentated. *Lightbody's Sir Charles Napier* is a new variety, and has been described as a beat on *Ne plus ultra*. It is, however, in my opinion, greatly inferior to it; the paste is angular, and the pips very starry, or pointed. It scarcely belongs to any class, being too white for a grey edge, and too grey for a white edge, which is another great drawback. Another new variety of Lightbody's, *James Dickson*, is a far superior flower to the last, and will be a first-rate sort. It has the finest paste and the most distinct black ground colour of any variety I know, with a fine tube and good edge. The paste is quite round, but the pips rather starry. *Dickson's Lady Jane Grey* was also very distinct and fine, possessing great substance and good properties. There were many others in this class, viz. *Conqueror of Europe*, *Kent's Queen Victoria*, *Grime's Privateer*, all worthy of extended cultivation. *Prince of Wales*, described as a green edge, was also fine as a grey edge, which I think is its best character. It is good in either style. *Oliver's Lovely Ann* appears to be a favourite

in some localities. I see, at one exhibition, it has had a silver medal awarded to it. It is not much admired here. It is a coarse flower; in its general character neither green nor grey, but what would be termed by many a mongrel. It is, however, a very robust and hardy variety, and I should presume that the honours awarded, were for specimens of plants more than for any fine qualities in the flowers.

The white-edged class is a favourite with me, and there are some magnificent flowers in it. As a first-class variety, I may mention *Hepworth's True Briton*. It is a flower of great substance, and requires fine sunny weather to expand. The pips are large and round, the ground a dense black, with fine edge and paste. *Cheetham's Countess of Wilton* has been finer this season than I ever remember to have seen it. The pips are remarkably round and flat, the ground dark and very regular, with fine tube and paste. The edge, at times, is rather deficient in density. It makes a handsome truss, and, taken altogether, is a very splendid variety. Then there was *Ashworth's Regular*, perfection itself, as far as colour and proportional properties go. The pips are rather small. *Summerscale's Catherine* is also a fine variety, well proportioned, and of fine quality. The pips, however, are not so round as could be wished. *Taylor's Favourite* will be a favourite, wherever grown. It makes a handsome plant, and throws up a fine truss. It is of tall habit. The pips of this variety also are rather angular. *Lee's Bright Venus*, in good condition, fully merits its name. It is a very lively variety, and of splendid habit. *Campbell's Robert Burns* is a nice variety, but, I fear, sportive. A rich violet ground and dense edge, but not so smooth as some sorts. A new variety, *Countess of Dunmore* (Light-body), was not equal to the expectations formed of it. The tube is fine, the paste dense and fine, but the ground colour is so irregular, the edge striking into the paste in several places,—a style not at all to my taste. Of other varieties there were *Taylor's*

Glory and *Incomparable*, *Potts's Regulator*, *Earl Grosvenor*, and *Lord Chancellor*, all very fine, and may be termed good useful sorts.

Othello (Netherwood) is still the finest self we possess. It is of splendid habit, colour dark rich marone, paste very circular, and tube good. I should say the nearest approach to perfection of any self in cultivation. *Blackbird* (Spalding), was introduced as a beat on *Othello*. It certainly has many fine properties, but it has a sad drawback in the stem being too short and weak, so that it cannot support a good truss. This is the worst fault an auricula can have, for however fine its other properties, they cannot be seen to advantage. The footstalks are also too short, which make the individual flowers of the truss crowded, and does not give them room enough to expand. It is a very dark marone in colour, the paste not so circular as *Othello*. *Meteor Flag* (Lightbody) is another new variety, of a blue colour. The pips are round and flat, and the colour improves as it ages, a property much wanting in this class. The paste, however, is not quite round. *Ivanhoe* (Lowe) is one of the prettiest selfs I have seen; the paste is so circular and the colour so rich, that it cannot fail to please. A strong plant, however, is apt to frill, which detracts from its merits. The colour, on opening, is black, changing, as it ages, to a rich violet blue. *Bradshaw's Tidy* and *Whittaker's True Blue* are two very pretty varieties, of a deep blue. The plants are of small habit and delicate growth. *Admiral of the Blue* (Lightbody) is of a very rich blue, similar to, but I think an improvement on *Redman's Metropolitan*. The tube is pale, and the paste rather thin. *Martin's Eclipse* is a very fine self, of a rich dark plum colour, with fine dense paste. *Mrs. Smith* (Smith) is an extremely rich plum colour, but the paste is starry,—a great drawback. I am always pleased with the fine carmine crimson of *Lord Lee*; and though it is entirely with-

out paste, yet it will always be admired for its colour. I long to see a self possessing the fine properties of Othello, with the rich colour of Lord Lee. *Gorton's Stadtholder* is a bright canary yellow, and is the only yellow self worth cultivation. Other varieties worthy of note are *Blue Bonnet*, *Lord Primate*, *Royal Purple*, *Nonsuch*, &c.

In alpines there has been no improvement for many years. *Fair Rosamond*, shaded crimson, is still the best; *Conspicua*, shaded blue; *Queen Victoria*, nearly black, shaded with dark scarlet, and a few others. These are not grown in many collections, from a belief that it is impossible to raise good edged auriculas where they are grown; but I have no doubt that, with care and attention to hybridizing, this difficulty may be overcome.

The auricula has not improved so rapidly as the pansy, the picotee, or the dahlia, of late years. Some of the new varieties are inferior to many which are half a century old. Indeed, if we take the whole of the classes throughout, we shall find that some of the oldest flowers are still the best. This arises, in my opinion, from want of proper care in taking seed and of hybridization. Nearly all the edged varieties have dark ground colours, yet I have no doubt that, by means of hybridization, the rich blue of Metropolitan, the bright yellow of Stadtholder, or the scarlet crimson of Lord Lee, might be infused into them, and a variety of flowers produced which would excel in beauty any which we now possess. The field for experiment is indeed wide, the shades of colour the flower possesses appearing to be unlimited. Though it is the oldest of florists' flowers, it may, as yet, be said to be only in its infancy, and no other class of flowers known to me will better reward the care and attention bestowed upon its improvement than this really magnificent tribe.

W. BAILDON.

Halifax, June 16, 1855.

FLORAL "PHRASES."

DEAR MR. EDITOR,—Observing your correspondent, Hannah Jane D.'s communication, which appeared in the May number of the *Midland Florist*, in the sentiments expressed in which I fully acquiesce, I beg to trespass on your good nature in requiring answers to a few simple questions on the *phrases of floriculture*.

I must premise that I have a bachelor brother, who is a most ardent florist; and it is a matter of some difficulty to decide which he prizes most,—myself or his flowers,—but I can speak with great certainty that he takes infinitely more pleasure in the gossip of an old *fogy* of a fellow, a near neighbour, who has devoted the leisure hours of a long life to the study and culture of flowers, than he does in the company of *my* visitors.

I have certainly derived some amusement in the conversations of my brother and his florist friend, to which I have been a most patient listener; but I cannot say that I have added much to my stock of information, as my brother's general and final answer to all my inquiries on floral matters, and which he considers conclusive, is, "that ladies have quite sufficient in domestic matters to occupy their time, without attending to flowers;" consequently, I have no means of understanding the very mysterious phrases which pass between them, and which have led me to address you on the subject.

I simply send you a sketch of their conversation, and am sure you will be able to furnish me with a solution of, to me, much mystery.

The other evening, my brother's gossip paid us a visit, and brought with him a spring flower,—a *poly-anthus*, I believe,—for his inspection and *opinion*!! It was really laughable to notice the solemnity displayed by them on the occasion, and I think I once or twice caught the expressions, "first-rate"—"no, the lacing and eye are both *mediocre*." Then fol-

lowed a lengthened discussion on the qualities of this flower; but what amused me most was the grave way in which they introduced the names of noble lords and ladies. I very well remember an allusion being made to a titled lady, who was the reigning belle of her day, and it was with some degree of curiosity that I listened to their remarks on her beauty. My brother observed that Lady G. was of a most perfect shape, and possessed a brilliant colour, but she was a *bad lacer*, and at times was *pin-eyed*! in which remarks his ancient friend concurred.

You can scarcely imagine the feelings of astonishment these expressions created; but this was not all, my brother positively asserted that, though he highly esteemed Lord R. for his general good qualities, his principal fault was he was rather *foxy*.

The conversation changed from polyanthuses to tulips, and as these are my brother's favourite flowers, it would have been quite a gratification to you, Mr. Editor, to have heard the very great *encomiums* passed upon them. I must confess, for my own part, that I prefer the very delicate rose-coloured ones on his best bed, to the dark purple and white, and dingy brown and yellows; but perhaps I am ignorant of the great charm there is in these flowers.

My brother and his friend had fairly started their hobby horses, and there was now no stopping them; so, having made a virtue of necessity, and being occupied with some needlework, I listened with attention, as each related, with much ardour, the hard runs they had experienced in winning prizes.

But their conversation suddenly changed from remarks on flowers to criticisms on individuals, and I was much amused with the observations in favour of and against several public characters, though I certainly thought both my old friends were out of their wits, when they asserted that Grace Darling, the Northumberland heroine, was of robust habit, and of unparalleled purity, when we all know that she died at an early age, of consumption. Queen

Charlotte, they observed, was a favourite with everybody. This, I believe, is contrary to history, but it is not *etiquette* to speak ill of the departed. Then they were both of opinion that the late Sir Robert Peel was similar to Polyphemus, at which, certainly, I was quite awe-stricken, for most of us know that Polyphemus was a *myth*, and had but one eye, and that placed in the centre of his forehead, whilst Sir Robert was as proper a man as any lady could fall in love with. Richard Cobden, on the contrary, my brother did not admire, and I do not wonder at this, considering he is a Tory of the old school. It would be very strange indeed if he did. I do not admire *that Cobden* myself.

My brother was very earnest in his admiration of a certain pilot, but what was his name, or the port where he resided, I could not learn. I wish I could have ascertained it, as he must be a most skilful man to stand at the head of his profession, or, as my brother graphically expressed himself, "A 1 of his class." This is a nautical phrase, I suppose. In opposition to this, our old neighbour stoutly maintained that a certain Captain White was equal to the pilot, who had been so highly eulogised by my brother, for he had known and seen him several times, some years ago, before the pilot was born; but he very unwillingly admitted that at the present time the captain was not entirely free from vice, as his character was slightly stained.

My brother and his friend very highly admired the Duke of Devonshire, as indeed I believe all must, who know anything of his Grace. I was, however, very much amused at one trait in his character, which was that he was very splendid in his "*cups*," alluding, I presume, to his Grace's *plate*.

The next great personage whose character was discussed was an ambassador from Holland. I imagine my brother must have read up for a description of the character of his Excellency, for I am in ignorance as to who he was, or under whose reign

he was at our court. However, be he whom he might, his characteristics were not very flattering; for my brother confidently asserted that he was only a slightly-made personage, wearing a *trifle of a feather*, and had a "*green bottom*." I record this phrase with much diffidence, and in utter ignorance of its application, but as I am positive my ears did not deceive me, I suppose it had reference to an unmentionable portion of his court attire.

The characters of celebrated actors and actresses were freely discussed, and amongst them was the world-renowned Paul Pry. I had written *him* down in my mind as a tiresome meddling busybody; but not one sentence to this purport did I hear from my brother or his friend. They both commended him for his capital shape, and extreme purity, and the great success he met with when he "just dropped in and hoped he didn't intrude," at many of the exhibitions. Faugh!

Several branches of the female aristocracy were alluded to;—amongst them were the Duchess of Sutherland and Lady Stanley, but in such terms of flattery, that it would ill become me to repeat all I heard.

The last two characters discussed were the illfated Lady Flora Hastings and the present Princess Royal. The "general appearance" of the former, my brother observed, was a too great flush of colour, but perfection in figure, and of extreme purity. I believe it was publicly stated by the medical attendants of this much-lamented and unfortunate young lady, that the scandal so maliciously heaped upon her was utterly false, and that she was as pure as Vesta. As for the Princess Royal, they both observed, she was a rising favourite, and would very soon obtain the golden opinions of every one. I sincerely hope she may.

It appeared quite incredible to me how such persons as my brother and his old friend obtained so much information respecting princesses, dukes, lords,

and ladies. They spoke of them as familiarly as if they were every day acquaintances. I am afraid you will think my remarks immoderately long,—but this is a lady's privilege, and I thought I might as well include all now, in preference to troubling you with a further letter.

I am, Mr. Editor, yours sincerely,

MARY M'E.

[Our fair correspondent has suffered the dilemma which Addison has so inimitably described in one of the numbers of the *Tatler*,—and, shall we flatter her when we say she has fairly imitated that master of polished wit and humour? To “our bachelor brother,” for his unorthodox doctrine “that ladies have quite sufficient in domestic matters to occupy their time, without attending to flowers,” we assign the duty of enlightening our fair friend on the points mooted, no very severe sentence; and adjudge him further, as often as he becomes prosy, to renew his strength by strong draughts upon her essence of *twolips*.—ED.]



CURRENT EVENTS.

CLOSELY following the Horticultural meeting, at Gore House, duly chronicled in your last number, was the National meeting of May 17th, at which was produced Ivery & Son's Rosy Circle, by far the sweetest gem in azaleas yet seen, a beautiful dwarf bush, full of flower, very smooth, and of the finest form. Colour bright rosy pink, the upper segments being slightly spotted with crimson, each being quite a new shade. The first-class certificate awarded was well merited. The original seedling plant was exhibited, and although but five inches high, had thirty fully-expanded perfect blossoms on it. This has only been seen at the National Floricultural Society. The

Messrs. Ivery & Son have now two very first-class azaleas on the stocks, Gem and Rosy Circle. Their Criterion has been thoroughly tested during the past season, and maintains to the full its promise as a decided beat on *A. variegata*. Pansies and cinerarias were shown for prizes, the first of the series offered for the present season. At Oxford, on May 24th, there was little novelty. Tulips, however, were, for the backward season, well produced by Mr. Betteridge, who won both first prizes, for twelve and nine blooms. Few growers can excel this gentleman; the National, at Cambridge, recorded in your pages, *in due course*, tells how well Mr. B. can grow and exhibit tulips. The same remark applies to pansies.

At the Meeting of the National Floricultural, on May 31st, a pretty shrubby calceolaria was shown by Mr. Kaye, and obtained a label of commendation. It is a plant of nice dwarf habit, and may prove desirable. Of roses, other calceolarias, cinerarias, rhododendrons, &c. none were considered of sufficient merit to obtain awards. The succeeding week brought several good subjects. Fancy Pelargonium Masterpiece (Turner) was awarded a first-class certificate, as also was Pelargonium Eva (Hoyle), and Petunia Major Domo (Turner). Pelargoniums Pallas (Hoyle) and Meteora (Foster), had a certificate of merit. These are much to be commended, and will take a place amongst the best, for distinctness, with quality. The first prizes for ericas and calceolarias were awarded to Mr. A. Young, gardener to J. Edwards, Esq., for neat and clean, though small specimens. I purposely pass the *event* of the 2nd of June, at the Crystal Palace, finding the meeting noticed by your own pen, in a mode quite in accordance with the opinions arrived at by your London correspondent.

The admirable arrangements at the Park second show, held June 13th, gave a double force to the universal complaint of the shortcomings in this

respect, at the Crystal Palace, on June 2nd. Of all the systems yet developed that of the Park is the best. There is scarcely a spot from which the whole exhibition may not be seen, at the same time there is ample room for thousands to promenade. One of the features of the present season is the erect style of gloxinias, than which few things are more charming. The flowers are of an upright growth, in the way of *G. Fyfiانا*. At present they are scarce and high-priced. Roses were fine, and of pelargoniums twenty-seven collections were staged for competition. The class for new flowers was interesting. I give the names, and with much confidence recommend pelargonium growers to obtain any or all of them. Governor General, Omar Pacha, Serena, Zeno, Carlos, Majestic, Attraction, Purple Perfection, Phaeton, Rosa, Pandora, Conqueror, Empress, Rebecca, Laura, Gem of the West, Lucy, Mary, and Seraskier. Meteora and Pallas, before noted, received certificates, and the same award was made to a dark spotted flower, named Quadroon. As a bedding variety, General Pelissier is first-class. To lovers of fancy pelargoniums I say, obtain Evening Star and Cloth of Silver; they can be had at a reasonable price.

Succeeding the exhibition at the Park was the show of the Royal South London Floricultural Society, held in the Cremorne Gardens. These gardens are very carefully tended, and would put to the blush many establishments claiming a high position for decorative excellence. It is worth recording that a public garden, visited by several thousand persons daily, can be so secure from injury. The gardener, in reply to my inquiry, assured me he seldom finds a flower injured, and the plants quite justified the assertion. The exhibition was chiefly reproduced from the Park of the previous day. Turner's, Gaines's, and Robinson's pelargoniums, Veitch's orchids, Paul's roses, with several additions, which make the smaller exhibition quite as interest-

ing as its gigantic compeers, were the principal features.

At Oxford, on the 19th, the exhibition was held in the grounds of Trinity College. A truly fine day, with a numerous company and a fine display of plants, made up a total worthy the care bestowed by the committee. Little short of one hundred pounds was taken for admission, on the day. Pansies and pelargoniums, shown by Turner, were both fine, as were the roses of Mr. Undersill. Some fine specimen ferns, from the Botanic Garden, graced the tables. Fruits and vegetables were short.

At Chiswick, on June 20, there was a noble gathering of fine specimens of nearly every cultivated subject only to be seen in numbers at the two London shows, though taken as a whole, the display was not equal to the Park of the previous week. Thus the great rival societies came equal—Gore House beating the Park in May, while the Park beat Chiswick in June. † I wish other differences in the working of the two societies could be as readily equalized, but, “alas! for the glories of Chiswick,” there is much to deplore in the iron rule of this parent of horticultural institutions. Disagreeable as the truth is, I cannot hesitate to say, that people do not and *will not* go to Chiswick, to be bullied (quite a parliamentary term) and insulted by its officers. *Justice* all may expect, but no one gets civility. This is the key to the lamentable condition of the Horticultural Society. Sorrowfully indeed I say it, speedy ruin must follow a perseverance in a course of conduct as uncalled for as it is ungentlemanly and undignified. The distaste existing for every class of florists’ flowers, openly expressed at every possible opportunity, is but a minor grievance. The canker which is eating into the very vitals of the institution, and which has already produced the most lamentable consequences, is the incivility, not to say insult, dispensed on all sides. Nothing can be obtained, either by “right” or by “favour,” civilly. The evil has been too long

growing to admit of hope that it may be cured, and nothing but the removal of the present director, and that promptly, can avert the impending ruin. Grievous complaint is made that the public do not support Chiswick. Is it to be wondered at, when grievances are to be found unredressed, from the highest to the lowest? Is it likely *gentlemen* will tolerate the grossest want of ordinary courtesy? Is it to be expected that the humble exhibitor, seeking needful information, will forget a coarse rebuff? Yet who of these, who have been at Chiswick, have not experienced such treatment? Perhaps the recital of a brief dialogue, which took place in one of the largest establishments near London, may serve to open the eyes of some concerned in the management, to the consequences of this behaviour, at the same time that the *absence* of public support is thus explained. I must premise that the gardener is one of the most skilful of skilful cultivators, and similar expressions may be heard from scores. The time was the past spring, and the dramatis personæ are the gardener and his employer. *Employer*—Well, Robin, what is to be the leading feature of our coming exhibitions? *Gardener*—Orchids and roses, I am told, never were so promising. *Employer*—Shall you be strong as usual, for June? *Gardener*—I hope to be so, and intend to try a general collection for the middle Park show. *Employer*—Why the Park, and not at Chiswick? *Gardener*—All the best growers go to the Park, and I prefer hard-won honours. *Employer*—Then I suppose we must go to the Park show in preference? *Gardener*—It is the best, certainly, Sir. Shall I obtain the tickets? *Employer*—Yes, and as you advise us to go to the Park, let the number of tickets be double, and I will see to making up a party for the occasion.—Thus we have the clue to the limited sale of tickets,—the gardener had been insulted, and quietly bided his time; and, as I have already said, there are scores quietly “biding their time.” However invidious it may seem to draw com-

parisons between the respective managers, it is patent to all, that while *one* drives the *other* draws; hence the rapidly-formed and rising popularity of the Park, and the setting glories of Chiswick. The last Chiswick day, July 12th, opened with heavy rain, at five a.m., and the same never ceased to fall up to seven p.m. Such a down-pour was even too much for my enthusiasm.

The concluding Park show shall form the topic of my next communication. I may, however, state that it was a most decided triumph, and brought together little short of fifteen thousand visiters, the exhibition of the Royal South London Society, at Cremorne, on the following day, being attended by one-third of that number.



PRIZES FOR TULIPS.

MAY I be allowed, as an old tulip grower, to state my opinion, through the medium of the *Midland Florist*, upon what appears to me to be a great inconsistency of our great tulip exhibitions, viz., that of giving the best prize to a pan of six blooms, in preference to a pan of eighteen blooms? If my views are erroneous, no doubt some of your correspondents will correct me. In order to establish my position, I assume as a starting point, that the real place for the tulip is the tulip bed, and that exhibitions are auxiliaries to keep up a proper competition, so as to prevent our sitting down quietly with the pleasing illusion that our own flowers are the best in the world, whereas a little roughing against our neighbours may convince us to the contrary, and make us endeavour to grow our flowers better, and to procure new varieties. Now a florist may have abundance of flowers, such as Triomphe Royale, Heroine, Pilot, Platoff, Princess Royal, &c., and be able to compete, and successfully too, for a pan of six, against a first-

rate bed ; and yet, if his bulbs were submitted to the hammer of the auctioneer, they would be found almost valueless. I maintain, then, that if any one can add to the usual number of six, a dozen blooms of such flowers as Everard, Strong's King, David, Mayor of Manchester, Waleken (Goldham's) Duchess of Sutherland, Violet Quarto, Marcellus, Groom's Countess of Wilton, and other flowers of this class, he would undoubtedly have more merit than a grower of six blooms, however good they may be. I suppose that the rejoinder will be, that in a pan of eighteen, the flowers may be either feathered or flamed, and that it is enough to require a feather and a flame in each class. This, I think, is no answer ; at all events, it might be met in this way :—that every pan of eighteen blooms should contain a feather and a flame in each class, and that the other twelve blooms should be either one or the other, as suited the convenience of the exhibitor. I see, by your July number, that there were fourteen competitors for the pan of six blooms, ten for that of twelve blooms, and only three for that of eighteen blooms,—and the question now arises, why were there only three ? clearly on account of the great difficulty of bringing eighteen first-rate flowers, to use a sporting phrase, “up to the scratch.” According to my views, then, the greatest merit was with Mr. Turner, and he should have had the first prize, for his stand of eighteen blooms ; Mr. Betteridge the second, for his stand of twelve blooms ; and Mr. Turner third, for his pan of six blooms. This, as it happened, did not make any difference, as Mr. Turner won both ; but I contend that his pan of eighteen should have had the first, that is, the chief prize.

W. N. S.

The syringe is the gardener's friend ; well applied under and over the leaves, it ronts the insect tribe, and saves immense trouble of catching and killing.

EXTRACTS, HINTS, AND RECOLLECTIONS.



THE PHILOSOPHY OF FLORISTS' FLOWERS,

[Reprinted from the *Florist* for 1849.]

No. V.

FORM, *considered absolutely*, possesses a double origin of beauty ; its two branches being, as in so many instances, in apparent contrast with each other—and these two branches are *unity* and *variety*.

And these should be always combined, and the rather because the combinations they admit of are unlimited ; nor is it necessary that either branch should be considered more essential than the other, but in proportion as in any flower or variety the value of one is increased, the other may recede and give way without being entirely obliterated ; as in flowers of the disk or of the cupped form, unity is the leading property ; in the composite forms, as the *Fuchsia* or the *Ixia*, variety takes the lead.

By *unity* is meant the singleness of idea presented to the mind, whereby the impression becomes definite and clear, not being distracted by contending claims, nor divided among many : as a cup formed of petals in contradistinction to six equal and separate petals, without the combining and controlling idea of a cup.

When applied to an outline, it means the appearance when that outline is one and unbroken, as in the circular form of a *Petunia*.

Its contrary is produced—

In idea, when a flower consists of a plurality of like and equal parts not uniting to form one idea, and especially if those parts are circular, as in the *veronica*.

In outline, 1. *By the occurrence of an interval* ; either by a breach of continuity in the substance,

as in the flower of the Arum, causing an effect like the loss of a guard-leaf in a Carnation: or by a separation between the parts which compose it, as in the petals of the Night-scented Stock. To this may be referred the broken edging in a Picotee, and broken lacing in a Pink.

2. Or *by an abrupt change*: either of kind, from a straight line to a curve, or from a curve to a straight line, as in the pea-blossom: or of direction, as when two straight lines terminate in a point, as in the pointed petals of the Narcissus.

By *variety*, when combined with unity (for simply considered, it needs no explanation), is meant the comprising many ideas under one—that the unity is not a dry unit.

When applied to an outline, it means the appearance when the line is flowing and continuous, yet constantly changing; such as is a curve, as in the circular blossom of the Convolvulus: or a succession of segments of curves, themselves arranged in a curve in the *same* plane, as in the flat circle composed of lobes in the Phlox or the Verbena: or in the more complicated outline composed of curves and lines in *different* planes, as in the Fuchsia.

When applied to the contents of an outline, it again explains itself, and is fulfilled when all is not same or self, but varied with diverse forms and colours.

Now with regard to the influence which these two sources of beauty exercise upon our judgments. First, with respect to unity.

If an external outline be broken, one or more of these three effects will be produced: either it will convey an idea of imperfection, that something is defective, and needs to be filled up; as in the native Pansy, or much more in an inferior cultivated variety, in which the improvement is begun, but only to the extent of making the defect more glaring by showing how it may be removed.

Or, if the parts are equal and similar, as in the Iris, the flower will not be a *whole*, to produce one leading idea, in which the others it may suggest are contained, but will be broken into parts, and its effectiveness diminished to that of a flower of the size of one of its parts.

Or the general appearance will be marred by the impression of roughness and harshness, causing to the eye a sensation analogous to that communicated to the hand by its passing over a rough uneven surface. This is exemplified in many flowers, even in the lily, and still more in the ragged edge of some pinks and carnations; because in them the defect is in such close juxtaposition with the means of its cure—a curve in the outline of the petal; and this curve already exists at the base of the serrated point. It always gives an idea of harshness.

It is not, however, always that these defects can be expected, or wished, to be removed by cultivation. In the Gladiolus, Iris, Ixia, and others, they are of the essence of the form, and the flower would quite alter its character were they removed. The alteration, if effected, would very possibly be no improvement; and at least it would be a complete transformation of the original. When this is the case, the flower must be content to take a lower rank, with such as are incapable of the highest assemblage of excellences, but not the less esteemed for the qualities it does possess. Nor is it desirable that all should be of one class.

Moreover, in some of this class the primary outline which gives the leading impression of the flower lies *within* the irregular parts, as in the Tigridia; the slightly concave disk of which is sufficiently distinct, and the protruding flaps of the alternate longer petals overhang its edge, and sometimes fall down from it like the lappets of a lady's head-dress of the reign of Queen Anne. Owing to this, the flimsy substance of the outer portion of the longer petals is no fault.

Nor is unity altogether lost in any of these flowers, except in such as contain a primary division of the corolla into two or more like and equal parts, as the Iris does, and many smaller flowers, as the Veronica, instanced above, in which the parts are circular, and therefore complete in themselves.

This quality, therefore, is most essential to the flower as a whole; and should accordingly be always more or less found under the general outline.

Next let us consider the effect of *variety*. This is even more essential to a pleasing form than unity is. It is, as it were, the substance, while unity is the form in which that substance should be presented; for, without it, the ideas suggested can be at best but scanty; and it is by a succession of ideas that pleasurable emotions are excited; while at the same time, variety, though ever so charming, if not included in one leading impression, will be desultory and unconnected; there will be a break in the current of thought, and the result will be harsh and disagreeable.

It may consist in forms, or numbers, or colours, or in any combinations of these. We have here principally to deal with the first, with some remarks on the second.

In the general or primary outline, variety arising from form can only be considered an element of beauty when it is easy and flowing. To explain which, it is necessary first to make clear the difference in the effects of straight lines and curves; for outlines can only be formed by straight lines and curves, and the characteristic effects of these are diametrically opposite to each other.

A *straight line* is one the direction of which is always the same; whence its effect is to accumulate force upon a point. And the impression produced by it will be asperity, brilliance, and power.

A straight line by itself gives no idea but that of simple progression, as in the stem or bole of a plant;

and in the subjects of the present inquiry can never be of a length sufficient to require further notice.

But there are two positions, in combination, in which it has considerable power over the appearance of flowers, illustrating what has been said of its impression, namely, when grouped in clusters radiating from a centre in the form which painters call a glory; and contrariwise, when two or more of them terminate in a point or angle outwards. Both these forms are often very effective in a subordinate outline, though either, if prominent, would be a marked defect in the principal one.

Lines radiating *from* a centre are found in many markings of flowers, as in the eye of a pansy, the colour of an auricula (in which they resemble the streamings in the arch of an aurora borealis), and the pencillings of the back petals of a Pelargonium. Nor is it of much consequence whether those lines, if they are mere lines, are strictly straight, or, as is more common, wavy and involved: they are more forcible if straight, and more feeble if curved; but are for the most part subject to the same remarks. In all cases, the ideas suggested by this form must be completely subordinated to that of some other in which it is included, or it will give an idea of coarseness, as in a veiny Pelargonium; or of harshness, as in a very narrow-striped carnation.

Straight lines running outwards *to* a centre, that is, meeting in an angular point, are not infrequent in the principal outline of many natural flowers, as in the pointed petal of the Auricula or Dahlia. In such cases it is invariably a fault; although in flowers destitute of high properties, as the Cineraria, the defect is lessened in the same ratio with the importance of the single bloom.

Sometimes a floral disk is made up of florets, as in the natural single Chrysanthemum and Cineraria; in which case, the outline being formed of the ends of the florets or petals, if any character is expected to

be attained in the individual blossoms, the angular points must be got rid of as soon as possible. In the present state of the latter flower, the general outline being rather that of the entire bloom of the whole plant, the minute appearance of each particular blossom becomes secondary, and the starry outline is less of a defect.

But even in the general outline, absolute perfection in getting rid of this appearance, is in many flowers certainly not to be wished. The resulting appearance would be tame, from the want of a foil, to call attention to the beauty of the more perfect part of the form. This would be especially the case in the Auricula. Small processes, in the way of points to the petals, are clearly serviceable to the general appearance, though lobes produce the same effect in a less objectionable way. In a subordinate position, a distinct star, or a starry appearance, would have all its lively effect, without involving the charge of roughness.

A curve is a line the direction of which is deflected at every point, according to a fixed law; whence its effect is to disperse instead of concentrating force. And the impression produced by it will be that of gracefulness, gentleness.

Curve-lines are of two kinds, of single and of compound curvature; the former being those of which the flexure is always in one direction, as the circle, ellipse, and others. The latter are those which are not always concave towards the same parts, but the curvature is alternately in opposite directions, or such as that a straight line might meet them in more points than two. The quilled form is an instance of it. Curves of high mathematical complexity of both kinds are found in flowers. The hyperbola is represented by the blossom of the arum. In the detached petal of a good tulip, and in some other flowers, the two portions of the outline divided by the axis or line of symmetry, are asymptotes to each other and to the axis.

The general outline of trumpet and of bell flowers is commonly of double curvature. So is that of some disk flowers. And when, as in the best varieties of the *Polyanthus*, the segments are small and equal, and symmetrically arranged upon the circumference of a circle, they form one of the most pleasing and effective of all.

The *circle* is the curve which, in proportion to its length, encloses the greatest space, and therefore, for a containing outline, it is theoretically the most perfect, and must ever stand the highest, in reference to its capabilities. Its diameter, moreover, being in all directions equal to itself, it has nothing to attract the eye to one part rather than to another, but all is equable. These properties belong to no other curve, and therefore it possesses advantages for a general outline which no other possesses.

It does not, however, from thence, follow that a *circle in one plane*, or presenting a flat surface, is the most perfect. On the contrary, we should say, *a priori*, that the spherical form which presents a circle in *every* direction would be superior. Whether in any given instance it is so, will depend on several considerations, as the characteristic of the flower, the form and disposition of its colours, and in part also on its size. What is invariable is, that the circle, abstractedly speaking, must take the first place among curves for a primary outline, as will be admitted at once, on comparing a circular with an oblong pansy.

In secondary outlines, the *oval* is often better than the circle, because completeness is in them not unfrequently out of place, as being an element of separation, not of union; and the want of fulness and completeness in a figure disposes the eye to connect it with surrounding objects, to make up what is wanting.

To sum up, therefore, the difference in the impressions produced by straight lines and curves: a straight line concentrates its force in one direction, and pro-

duces the idea of pungency and sharpness. In following a curve, the direction of the eye is in a constant state of change, and therefore no accumulation takes place; and as the change can never be abrupt, the perception arising from it is one of smoothness, softness, and elegance. Hence curves alone are suited to the general outline, because the general notion of beauty must be one of softness; while a moderate amount of straight lines, and of angles produced by them, are effective in contained figures; and to reverse this is an analogous mistake to that made by Petruchio, in offering his mistress mustard instead of beef.

To return, therefore, to the effect of *variety*.

IOTA.

[To be continued.]

TULIP CULTURE.—In your April number, under the head "Gossip," you inserted some observations of mine, relating to the hardness of the tulip. I there said, "wet will not kill them," meaning that rain, however copious, would not destroy them. I ought, perhaps, to have been more explicit, as your correspondent, O, of Manchester, has inferred, from what I there stated, that I considered it immaterial whether tulips were planted in a wet soil or a dry one, and that the destruction of my tulips must have "arisen from one cause, defective drainage." Every person conversant with gardening must be aware that good drainage is the first requisite, in soils that require it; but mine, being a fine sandy loam, through which the rain that falls percolates freely, and no water being nearer the surface than seven feet, requires no draining; consequently your correspondent must find some other cause than "defective drainage" for the destruction of my tulips.—RICHARD HEADLY.

Leave nothing for to-morrow which may be done to-day.

FLOWERS, ETC. RECEIVED SINCE OUR LAST REPORT.

PANSY.—D. H., *Cosley*.—White ground, blue purple edge and upper petals; remarkably fine bold eye. A variety much in the way of *Marchioness of Bath*, the upper petals are, however, rather too much crumpled. In the present state of this class, decidedly worth growing.

PELARGONIUM.—CHARLES LEICESTER, *Macclesfield*.—Your seedling, *Captain Hibbert*, is a finely-formed flower, lower petals rosy purple, upper petals large marone blotch, shading off to bright crimson; but not equal to varieties already out. A truss should have been sent.

PANSIES.—C. S.—No. 21. Extra fine. Yellow ground, with broad margin and upper petals of rich marone. Good bold eye, good size, and rich colours.

No. 1. Small, but a fine flower. Rich orange ground, fine bold eye. Upper petals and margin rich bronze marone.

No. 11. Yellow ground, with crimson puce upper petals and margin. Good eye.

No. 5. Yellow ground; fine dark upper petals and margin; fine eye. The marking is broken and irregular, otherwise a fine flower.

No. 7. Yellow ground, with chocolate crimson margin and upper petals. Eye faulty.

No. 2. Crimson puce upper petals and margin; yellow ground; fair eye, but the shield is incomplete.

No. 12. White, delicately edged on each petal with light blue. As seen, too rough, but very pretty.

We think very highly of Nos. 21 and 1.

QUERIES AND ANSWERS.



I should be obliged by your informing me, in your next number, whether there is any kind of stove (self-feeding would be preferable) which can be used in the *interior* of a greenhouse, without damage to the plants. In page 395 of the volume for last year, when noticing Mr. Rivers's orchard houses, mention is made of an Arnott stove, in a house where figs are grown. Would you be kind enough to say if the stove is in the house, and enter into particulars? and you will oblige

A SUBSCRIBER.

All the stoves we have seen in greenhouses have been unsightly objects, and in no instance have we known them to give satisfaction. Mr. Rivers's brick Arnott stoves have been said

to answer for his orchard houses. These stoves are of Mr. R.'s own construction, and he, naturally desirous to make them answer, takes care nothing is wanting in needful attention. We should recommend a well-built smoke flue, or hot water pipes.

I shall feel obliged if you, or any subscriber to the *Midland Florist*, can inform me of any chemical or other agent for the destruction of emmets, with which my garden, this year, is dreadfully infested,—chiefly the ground and trees on a north border, which have suffered most seriously from their ravages. I have tried tobacco water, soapsuds, lime, sulphur, &c.

WILLIAM H. MABB.

Trace the ants to their nest or nests, and pour boiling water over them. Their destruction will be certain, provided the water be boiling.

I have a small garden, wherein I intend erecting some garden frames on brickwork, and I wish to know if I can legally pull them down and remove them, in the event of my needing so to do, supposing I have an agreement to that effect with my landlord?

JAMES HART, *Bradford*.

Certainly. The agreement must be on stamped paper, signed by yourself and landlord, and duly attested. The question should have been addressed to a solicitor, and not to the conductor of a floral publication.

HINTS FOR THE MONTH.

FLORISTS' FLOWERS.

AURICULAS.—Whether the system of early or that of late potting is pursued, it is now time that this should be performed. The careful grower will have his soil in readiness, and in a fit condition for use. It is scarcely necessary, perhaps, to recommend the avoiding of the various strange mixtures in the compost which were said formerly to be of such great benefit. Let the soil be of sound character, freely mixed with vegetable mould, and attend carefully to the drainage of the pots. The best situation for the plants will still be a partially shaded one. Keep clear from insects. Supply moderately with water until more rapid growth takes place, which will shortly be the case.

CALCEOLARIAS.—Still protect from strong sun, and also from heavy rains and winds; but at other times the more freely they are exposed the better. Keep clear of insects, and continue the propagation of esteemed varieties as stock can be procured.

CARNATIONS AND PICOTÉES.—Now is the interesting time for these, and they will make large demands upon the time of the grower, especially if intended for competition. Let the pods have the most careful attention, and see that they are properly eased. Protect the opening blooms from wet, and shade from strong sun. The thrip, greenfly, and earwig are great hinderances to the obtaining perfect flowers,—see to the timely destruction of these. The season being backward, in some instances piping was obliged to be deferred last month, in consequence of the grass not being sufficiently matured; in cases in which the grass is in such a position that it cannot be got down for layering, piping may still be proceeded with, but we should recommend a slight additional bottom heat beyond that which would have been sufficient in July. If they can be procured from pipings, there is no doubt but that the plants will be more strong and healthy than those produced from layers. *Layering.*—This is the month during which this must be got through. We see no benefit, but on the contrary have known evil to result from this being done too early; all that is required is, that it should be completed in time to ensure sufficiency of roots to carry the young stock through the winter. If they become over matted with roots previous to planting-out time, they are apt to spindle into bloom in the small pots, which should by all means be avoided. A liberal supply of water will be necessary during the blooming period, and occasional supplies of weak liquid manure.

CINERARIAS.—See *calceolarias*: the treatment recommended for which is applicable also to these. Still sow seed for succession, and pot off seedlings already up, as they need it. Keep clear of greenfly. Air should be given by night as well as by day to those under cover; propagate young stock as obtainable from esteemed varieties.

EPACRIS.—See that these are continuing to grow in their intended shape. Stop the shoots which are unduly taking the lead, give a good supply of water while they are growing freely.

ERICAS.—Examine carefully your stock, to see that all have been shifted. Should any have been overlooked, lose not a day in correcting the omission. Give plenty of air at all times to those growing freely, and water abundantly when needed; never do it in dribbles. Should mildew make its appearance, let sulphur be applied immediately; if used in time, it is a sure remedy, but if delayed too long, the injury will be past cure. Shade newly potted plants.

FUCHSIAS.—Attend to the arrangement of the flowering stems of these, let the blooms hang clear, tie up the branches as they require it, but avoid unnecessary use of stakes; give occasionally liquid manure, and shade from hot sun.

PANSIES.—Keep the beds clear of weeds, and stir the soil which has become battered down by heavy rains, round the

young planted-out stock. Do not let the young plants flower prematurely;—nipping off the young buds now will be well repaid by the extra vigour of the plants at the late blooming season. This is more especially needed for stock which is meant to supply *Pansies in Pots*.—Those for growing next season in this way, will have to be selected from the beds which are, or should be by this time, formed for the purpose. See to managing the plants so as to obtain as many shoots as possible of the same character from each, upon which the amount of bloom which can be had at one and the same time open, next spring, will depend.

PELARGONIUMS.—The early-flowering plants which were cut down last month, should be potted as soon as they have broken sufficiently. Those later should be cut down this month. *Cuttings* propagate, and early-rooted ones shift as they advance sufficiently to require it.

PINKS.—Plant out, or pot off early-rooted pipings; pipings may still be put in, but it is late enough to obtain stock which will be sufficiently strong to make good flowering plants next season.

RANUNCULUS AND ANEMONES.—Any still in the ground should be taken up, or they may start into second growth,—that is if the foliage shows evidence of maturity; let the roots be dried in a cool airy place, not in the sun.

TULIPS.—Look over the bulbs, and remove any loose skin, also offsets large enough to bloom next year. See that the place in which the roots are stored is secure from mice, and other enemies.

CALENDAR OF OPERATIONS, FOR AUGUST.

[From Rendle's Price Current and Garden Directory.]

THE chief feature in cultural matters, this month, is the sowing of certain crops, to supply autumn, winter, and spring; their well-doing depending much on exactitude as to the period of sowing. We will name a few, to illustrate the matter: spinach, cabbages, lettuces, carrots, onions, radishes, cresses, chervil, corn salad, &c. Now, at first sight, these may appear trivial, but we may remind our friends, that they are of so much importance to a winter's dinner table, that their absence would be keenly felt. Still see that no weeds are allowed to go to seed; and cultivate between crops that need it. Do not forget the waterpot; drought and poor soils make cabbages look blue and celery yellow.

CUCUMBERS.—Sow for early winter use. Sion House is very excellent for this purpose.

AMERICAN AND NORMANDY CRESS should now be sown, and will produce excellent salad for winter. Both are hardy. The American resembles water cress in taste. Plant out at a distance of eight to ten inches, on good soil; it will produce a quantity of leaves through winter.

ENDIVE.—Sow for full crop the Curled and Batavian; plant out that which has already been sown for early use.

LETTUCE.—Sow again, for winter and early spring. The following are very hardy, and well suited for this purpose:—Brown Cos, Brown Dutch, Cabbage, Hammersmith Hardy Green, Egyptian Green Cos, and Tennis Ball.

HERBS.—Collect all as they come into flower, dry them in the sun, and store away in a dry room. Collect marygold flowers and camomile, on fine sunny days; let them be thoroughly dry before putting away.

CABBAGES for early spring crop should now be sown, and another sowing at the end of the month; such as East Ham, Atkin's Matchless, and any of the early-hearting kinds. Red Dutch, for pickling; and Drumhead or Flatpole, for cattle, about the middle of the month.

ANGELICA.—Sow now, to have good plants for next spring.

CHERVIL.—A sowing should now be made, to stand the winter; it is a useful plant for garnishing.

ONIONS.—Sow, to stand the winter, some of the hardier kinds; the following will be found to answer:—Large Tripoli, Lisbon, and Welsh. The summer crop will be now reaching maturity, and those which are already ripe should be got in. Any that have a tendency to "thick neck" should be crushed down with a wooden rake or pole.

SPINACH should be sown for winter use, about the 10th of the month, and another sowing, for succession, ten days later.

CAULIFLOWERS.—Make the first sowing, for being protected through the winter, under hand-glasses or frames; sow again for the same purpose, the middle of September.

CELERY.—Such as are large enough, should be earthed up. In performing this operation, care is required to keep the soil from the hearts of the plants. Encourage the later plantings, by the application of liquid manure. If the plants are infested with slugs, a sowing of lime, or soot, will be found of much service, before earthing.

RADISHES.—Sow the Black Spanish, for winter, and another sowing of the turnip-rooted kinds will yet come in for a late crop.

PARSLEY may yet be sown. If any should show a tendency to be plain-leaved, they should be immediately removed, to allow more room for those of better quality.

LEeks, if required, may yet be planted; those already out, earth up to within three or four inches of the stem.

CHILIS, CAPSICUMS, AND TOMATOS, both green and ripe, should now be gathered, for sauce or pickling.

CARROTS—Sow a few Early Horn, in a warm border.

FLORAL EXHIBITIONS.

HALIFAX AURICULA SHOW,

Held at the Odd Fellows' Hall, on Saturday, May 5th, 1855.

In consequence of the very unfavourable spring, there was a very scanty display of flowers. Had the show been postponed a fortnight, there would have been a fine display; but the determination of the exhibitors not to alter the date, made it impossible to produce the fine stage usual at this show. The following were the awards:—

Grey-edged.

- 1 Page's Champion, Mr. W. Baildon
- 2 Barlow's King, ditto
- 3 Highland Boy, Mr. J. Chapman
- 4 Seedling, Mr. W. Baildon
- 5 Lady Ann Wilbraham, ditto

Green-edged.

- 1 Hey's Lovely Ann, Mr. J. Chapman
- 2 Seedling, Mr. W. Baildon
- 3 Conqueror of Europe, Mr. J. Chapman
- 4 Pott's Regulator, Mr. W. Baildon

White-edged.

- 1 Lord Chancellor, Mr. J. Chapman
- 2 Seedling, Mr. W. Baildon
- 3 Ditto, ditto
- 4 Regulator, Mr. J. Chapman

Sells.

- 1 Lord Lee, Mr. J. Ratcliffe
- 2 Meteor Flag, Mr. W. Baildon
- 3 Othello, ditto
- 4 Stadtholder, Mr. J. Chapman
- 5 Metropolitan, Mr. W. Baildon

AMATEUR TULIP SOCIETY.

The twelfth annual exhibition of the above society took place on Wednesday, the 30th May, at the usual place of meeting, the Horns Tavern, Kennington. The show, considering the untoward nature of the season, was a good one, and better than was generally expected, but was certainly inferior both in quantity and quality to that of last year. The long unbroken series of cold and dry north and north-east winds had injured and retarded the bloom, and although a late day was fixed, the flowers in many localities were not even then in condition. They were shown for the first time in two classes, in accordance with a resolution passed at a general meeting of the society, namely, Class A. for flowers grown more than five miles from the General Post Office; Class B. for flowers grown within that distance. The society were fortunate in again securing the services of their usual censors, Messrs. H. Goldham, R. Lawrence, and Willmer, whose integrity and acknowledged ability render their decisions unimpeachable. The following was the award:—

CLASS A., COUNTRY GROWERS.

1st. Mr. Hunt, of High Wycombe, with David, Lady C. Gordon, Vivid, Lady Stanley, Ulysses, General Bournonville, Pilot, Maid of Orleans, and Camuse de Craix.

2nd. Mr. Norman, of Woolwich, with Peter Rolt, Habit de Parade, Mrs. Norman, Aglaia, Polyphemus, Mrs. Bowles, Pilot, La Belle Nannette, and Mrs. Baker.

3rd. Mr. Wallace, of Petersham, with Marcellus, Cerise Blanche, New Bybløemen, Duc de Bouffieres, Rubens, Astonishing, Duke of Devon, Lavinia, and Lycurgus.

CLASS B., TOWN GROWERS.

1st. Mr. Quelch, of Camberwell, with Queen Adelaide, Polyphemus, Vivid, Jeffrey's Elizabeth, Michael Angelo, Mary Lamb, Friend, Anastasia, and Optimus.

2nd. Mr. Cook, of Brixton, with Madame Vestris, Pyramid d'Egypt, May's Ulysses, Constantia, Sphinx, Minerva, Cook's Mary, Bijou des Amateurs, and Vivid.

3rd. The two following stands declared to be of equal merit:—Mr. Delaforce, of Camberwell, with Rose Brilliant, Salvator Rosa, Brown's Ulysses, Vivid, Duchess of Sutherland, Groom's Adelaide, Surpasse Brulant, Empress Eugenie, and Delaforce's King.—Mr. Dutton, of Peckham, with Lady Stanley, Vivid, Eugenie, Holmes's King, Cerise Belleforme, Surpasse Polyphemus, Hamlet, Princess Royal, and Triomphe Royale.

Best Seedling Bybløemen.—Mr. Hunt, with Queen of the South.

Best Seedling Bizarre.—Mr. Hunt, with Sir G. H. Dashwood.

Seedlings of considerable merit were also exhibited by Mr. Hunt, Mr. Scarnell, Mr. Holmes, and Mr. Norman.

The undermentioned may be noted as among the most attractive flowers shown:—In Mr. Hunt's stand, Ulysses, David, Lady Stanley, Vivid, and a fine high-coloured rose, called Lady C. Gordon. This gentleman also exhibited a very fine byblœmen seedling, named Eliza, and a fine bizarre, Robert Lawrence. —In Mr. Norman's pan were three first-rate byblœmens of his own raising, named Mrs. Norman, Mrs. Bowles, and Mrs. Baker.—Mr. Wallace had a fine bloom of *Lycurgus bizarre*; and a pretty delicate bizarre, Candidate, was shown by Mr. Brown. That fine constant bizarre, Delaforce's King, was shown by Mr. Holmes, Mr. Delaforce, and Mr. Middlecott. The favourite rose, Mary Lamb, was exhibited by Mr. Quelch, Mr. Macefield, and Mr. Williams; the latter gentleman had also a fine bloom of *La Belle Nannette*. In Mr. Crook's stand his pretty Rose Mary was conspicuous, with a fine bloom of Sanders's Sphinx, Mr. Dutton's Lady Stanley, Mr. Bushell's Victoria Regina, and a new broke byblœmen by Mr. Delaforce, called Empress Eugenie, were also much admired. Mr. Goldham, of Sydenham, sent a fine collection, not for competition, among which the following were extremely beautiful:—Milton, Queen of Kent byblœmen, Lady Lilford, Walker's Duchess of Sutherland, Fortunatus, Marc Antony, Perfection bizarre, Rachel, and Glory bizarre.

The members and honorary members afterwards dined together as usual, Mr. Delaforce presiding, and Mr. Venables filling the vice-chair.

LEEDS CENTRAL FLORAL SOCIETY TULIP SHOW.

At Mr. J. Bramma's, Nag's Head Inn, Leeds, June 11.

1st Pan. (Siver cup.) Platoff, Polyphemus, Baguet, Gibbons's Byblœmen, La Belle Nanette, Aglaia, and Chellaston Breeder, G. Foster. 2nd. Sovereign, San Joe, Baguet, Alexander Magnus, La Belle Nanette, Triomphe Royale, and Cotherstone, E. Schofield, Wortley. 3rd. Platoff, Polyphemus, Baguet, Great Western, Heroine, Aglaia, and Gibbons's Breeder, W. Chadwick. 1st Premium Bloom. Platoff, G. Foster. 2nd. Baguet, S. Hartley.

Feathered Bizarres.

- 1 Platoff, G. Foster
- 2 Ditto, ditto
- 3 Ditto, ditto
- 4 Waterloo, E. Schofield
- 5 Platoff, G. Foster
- 6 Bolivar, T. Wainman

Flamed Bizarres.

- 1 Hero of Slough, S. Hartley
- 2 Clark's Lucullus, ditto
- 3 Polyphemus, ditto
- 4 Polyphemus, I. Boshell
- 5 Rufus, T. Wainman
- 6 Dutch Catafalque, I. Boshell

Feathered Byblœmens.

- 1 Baguet, S. Hartley
- 2 Baguet, I. Boshell
- 3 Gibbons's Elegans, T. Wainman
- 4 Baguet, ditto
- 5 Baguet, E. Schofield
- 6 Baguet, W. Chadwick

Flamed Byblœmens.

- 1 Princess Royal, Cliff, Wortley
- 2 Maid of Orleans, W. Chadwick
- 3 Britannia, ditto
- 4 Waller's Violet, Cliff
- 5 Britannia, I. Fryer
- 6 Prince Elie, S. Hartley

Feathered Roses.

- 1 Comte de Vergennes, G. Foster
- 2 Comte de Vergennes, Cliff

- 3 Comte de Vergennes, E. Schofield
- 4 Dixon's Bion, S. Hartley
- 5 Gibbons's Unknown, T. Wainman
- 6 La Belle Nanette, ditto

Flamed Roses.

- 1 Aglaia, G. Foster
- 2 Ditto, ditto
- 3 Triomphe Royale, S. Hartley
- 4 Triomphe Royale, Cliff
- 5 Triomphe Royale, G. Foster
- 6 Triomphe Royale, I. Boshell

Selfs.

- 1 Cotherstone, Cliff
- 2 Cotherstone, T. Wainman
- 3 Cotherstone, W. Chadwick
- 4 Cotherstone, T. Wainman
- 5 Cotherstone, I. Boshell
- 6 Cotherstone, Cliff

Bizarre Breeders.

- 1 Truth, W. Chadwick
- 2 Pilot, ditto
- 3 Ditto, ditto

Byblœmen Breeders.

- 1 Gibbons's Breeder, T. Wainman
- 2 Sancta Sophia, R. Armstead
- 3 Maid of Orleans, S. Hartley

Rose Breeders

- 1 Gibbons's, T. Wainman
- 2 Gibbons's, G. Foster
- 3 Ditto, ditto

PURITY, form, and marking, having been laid down as essential points, were carried out by the committee to the full extent, to the entire satisfaction of the growers concerned. The judges were, Mr. Dobbings, Leeds; Mr. S. Hartley, Stanley; and Mr. R. White, Leeds.

ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

NATIONAL CARNATION AND PICOTEE SOCIETY.

THE fifth annual exhibition of Carnations and Picotees took place at Oxford, on the 2nd ult., in connection with the exhibition of the Royal Oxfordshire Horticultural Society. We believe there are few florists who do not recognize the importance of these aggregate meetings. Our own opinion is, that there is no agent calculated to exercise an influence on the flower to be exhibited, no agent calculated to influence the position of the florist cultivator, more potent, if so potent, than is to be found in these annual competitions. If well conducted, these meetings must develop that which will educate no less than delight the cultivators of the flower brought forward. No erroneous estimate or false appreciation of the properties of flowers can long stand before the criticism which such meetings, so conducted, will ensure, and as at the same time the nature of the competition must arouse the energies of the cultivators, the flower is brought favourably before the public.

We think these conclusions are indisputable,—though very possibly very wide differences of opinion may exist as to the best mode of arriving at these results, in fact, what is or is not a *well-conducted* meeting. We will, therefore, state what we think must ever be influential elements of such. First, the day of exhibition, the circumstances of the district being considered, should admit of the contributions of the largest possible number. Secondly, in arranging the terms of competition, the guiding principle should be, not the measure of the strong, but the ability of the weak. For it will be very apparent that that arrangement which will enable the cultivator of fifty or a hundred pairs of plants, or

twenty rows of tulips, to compete, will not keep out the cultivator of a stock of five times that extent. The amount of the prizes we think a secondary matter. We would simply stipulate that there should be a multiplicity of them, and that seven-eighths of the exhibitors should be rewarded. We know, however, from ample experience, that from sixty to seventy pounds may be annually collected, either from the admirers of the Tulip or of the Carnation and Picotee, and we are satisfied that whether that amount, or half that amount only be offered, the responsibility of the executive will be precisely the same. We have been led into this detail, because when the amount of subscriptions and the number of competitors are less by one-half than the amount and number of a previous year, we think some radical error must have been fallen into, and a recurrence of a similar mistake should be guarded against.

The error in this case we believe to have been in the exclusion of the class for cultivators of a small stock; and the limitation of the number of competitors thus produced was seriously aggravated by the lateness of the season. We are aware that these remarks may be thought invidious, but we hold it to be our duty, no less than our privilege, to speak that which we honestly think; and as we consider the success or influence of these meetings must mainly depend upon the number of florists taking part in them, we feel that we are called upon to point out anything adverse to this end. That a great error was committed we cannot hesitate to believe, an error not only injurious to the meeting we now record, but one which, if unchecked, would fatally limit the usefulness of the society, and make its name simply a delusion and a snare.

Of the exhibition itself it is merely just to say, that none of those preceding it have been more distinguished for the beauty of the flowers brought forward. With the unrivalled collection at Slough at the height of its bloom, and largely contributing,

this was a result to be expected. Mr. Keynes of Salisbury, also contributed a splendid lot of flowers, and if the amateur class was inferior to what we have seen it, we feel bound to say, it exceeded our expectations, the date of the exhibition and the adverse character of the season being considered.

In the nurserymen's class for twelve carnations, Mr. Charles Turner, of the Royal Nursery, Slough, was first, the best flowers being Exit, S.F., in extra fine style, petal broad, marking rich and bold, and white very pure; Alonzo, R.F., a flower similar to Lorenzo, and scarcely distinct from that fine variety, but extra fine in the marking, shape and smoothness of petal, and rich white; Christopher Sly, a fine rich dark S.F.; Omar Pacha, a light rich S.B., something in the Ranccliffe style, but with a broader petal; Model, a new C.B., a perfect model in the shape of petal and breadth of marking, white fine, and of extra substance; Julia (Nicklin), a P.F., not yet much known, a very pretty flower, the petal being nicely cupped and smooth, a seedling, we believe, from Squire Trow, and superior to that old variety; and Defiance, a rich bright S.F., ex. ex., the best flower and we thought the best variety in a stand of fine varieties. This opinion, jotted down as we followed the judges, was vindicated by their subsequent unanimous selection of the flower for the premier prize, as the best Carnation in the whole exhibition.

Mr. Keynes, of Salisbury, was second, with twelve finely-grown flowers, among which were splendid specimens of Squire Trow, Justice Shallow, Rachel, Flora's Garland, Omar Pacha, and Admiral Curzon. The third and fourth prizes were not competed for.

In Picotees, Mr. Turner was again first, the best flowers being Mrs. Hobbs, a light feathered-edged purple, fine broad petal, and good size; Eugenie, light red, colour solid and regular, with a good size, but the petal is too angular, and the white is little better than those already known in the class; Sultana,

a heavy-edged red, much in the way of Jessup's Sir William Middleton, but an immense improvement on that old variety; Finis, light purple, fuller than Haidee, but otherwise not superior to that superb variety; Lady Grenville, heavy rose, Barnard colour, exceedingly soft and sweet; and Mrs. Drake, the gem of the stand, a splendid heavy rose, rich, bright, and of exceeding purity. The colour is much like that of Princess Royal, but in shape of petal, general contour, and evenness of marking, it altogether distances that well-known old flower. We thought this the best flower in the whole exhibition, but in this the majority of the judges differed from us, Finis, a superb flower, exhibited by Mr. R. R. Oswald, of Birmingham, being awarded the premier prize.

Mr. Keynes, in the second stand, had fine specimens of Mrs. Headly, Mrs. Kelke (quite a heavy-edge, as shown), Queen (Green), Mrs. Norman, and Mrs. Hoyle, but, as a whole, we thought his Picotees scarcely equal to his Carnations, the edges being slightly injured.

In the amateur class for twelve Carnations, Henry Steward, Esq., of York, was first. The best flowers were Falconbridge, F. Garland, Justice Shallow, Lord Ranciffe, Poor Tom, and Uncle Tom. In the second stand, awarded to Mr. Saml. Eyre, of Snenton, Notts., there were fine specimens of Earl Spencer, Lord Milton, Poor Tom, Admiral Curzon, and Firebrand. Mr. Oswald, of Birmingham, in the third stand, had fine flowers of Magnificent (R.F.), Lorenzo, Christopher Sly, Premier, and Simpson's Queen Victoria, the latter especially ex. ex. W. Belcher, Esq., of Abingdon, was fourth; Mr. Taylor, of Snenton, Notts., fifth; and Mr. Maltby, of Oxford, sixth. Mr. Hale, of Hillingdon, also exhibited in this class, but by some oversight his flowers were not placed upon the exhibition table. Later in the day, when the error was discovered, they were adjudged equal to the fifth, and a prize of that value was awarded to them.

In Picotees, Mr. Steward was again first. He had

a fine bloom of Countess (heavy purple), Enchantress, Mrs. Barnard, and Calliope, and a sweet little bloom of Duke of Devonshire, but altogether, the stand was far inferior to the remarkably fine collection exhibited by him at Derby, in 1854. Mr. R. R. Oswald came a very close second. He had fine blooms of Mary (light red), Alfred, Prince Arthur (called in error Countess), Ganymede, Finis (very fine, the premier prize, as the best Picotee in the exhibition being awarded to it), and Rosetta. Mr. Kirtland, of Bletchington, Oxon, was third. In this stand we noticed a beautiful light-edged red seedling (No. 8), the best light-edged red we believe we have yet seen, the petal being broad, the marginal colour solid, the white good, and without spot or bar. We understand the variety has since been purchased by Mr. Turner, and is named "National." Mr. Kirtland had also a nice bloom of Duke of Devonshire and Marris's Unexpected. Mr. Elkington, of Buckingham, was fourth, his best flowers being Finis, Duke of Devonshire, and Calliope. The fifth prize was awarded to Mr. S. Eyre, who had Annot Lyle, Little Nell, Amy Robsart, and Mrs. Bayley, in fair condition, but by an error on the part of his gardener, the names of these flowers, in the key to the stand, were all misplaced. Mr. Maltby, of Oxford, was sixth, his most noticeable flowers being Green's Queen and Bridesmaid. Other competitors in this class were Mr. Taylor, of Snenton; Mr. Wm. Colcutt, of Oxford; Mr. Woodbridge, of Benson; and Mr. Cooke, of Oxford.

In the class for single blooms, open to all, two hundred and eighty specimens were staged, Mr. Turner and Mr. Keynes contributing fully two-thirds of that number, and the amateurs the remaining third. Thirty-four of the sixty-five prizes went to Mr. Turner, nineteen to Mr. Keynes, and the remaining twelve to the amateurs.

Though the quantity of flowers was so much more limited than has been usually the case in the exhibi-

tions of this society, there was, in our opinion, an ample number; and in almost every class the quality was everything that could be desired. Of the novelties shown, not already described, Oxonian, C.B., is a fine distinct flower, petal broad, well laid, and gently cupped, with a very rich marking and pure white. Defiance, S.F., took first and second in its class; and Comet, which is comparatively unknown in the south, was very bright, very full of colour, and has a good white. Dr. Pittman, second in the heavy red class, has a beautiful white and very solid edging, but the petal is apt to curl, and, in our opinion, Sultana, from its excellent habit and shape of petal, despite the drawback that its marking is not so solid, is much the better variety. Lineker's seedling, second in the light purple class, is a very pretty flower, having a finely-shaped and smooth petal, with a solid margin. In the heavy roses, Alice was exquisite; small truly, but richer and brighter in its colour than ever we had seen, even in Venus. Mrs. Drake had second and third, the blooms being slightly faded, otherwise we think there can be no doubt of its pretension to the first place in its class. Ariel, light rose, placed first in its class, was, we think a mistake. It has solidity of colour and a pure white, but the shape of the petal is execrable. Miss Sainsbury is very distinct from Mrs. Barnard in its colour, but is not so smooth as that fine old variety.

At the afternoon meeting, it was unanimously resolved that the next exhibition of the society should be held at Birmingham, its care being delegated to John Haines, Esq., Mr. Samuel Brown, and Mr. R. R. Oswald; and from the spirit, liberality, and energy which has been the distinguishing characteristics of our Birmingham friends, we are persuaded nothing will be left undone to ensure the utmost possible success. And we urge it upon our florist friends of every section and district, that it is their duty to respond warmly and freely, in full confidence that no flower, or tribe of flowers, can more deserve

their efforts to place it worthily before the public, and in equal confidence that the public will admire and applaud the result.

Our remarks have run to such a length that we have no space to notice the exhibition of the Oxfordshire Horticultural Society, held conjointly with the Carnation and Picotee exhibition. It must suffice to say it was one of the finest displays of fruit and vegetables we have ever witnessed.

Annexed we give the awards of the judges, Messrs. Norman and Baker, of Woolwich; and G. W. Hoyle, Esq., of Reading.

NURSERYMEN.—TWELVE CARNATIONS.

1st. Mr. Charles Turner, Royal Nursery, Slough, with Exit, Lord Ranccliffe, Alonzo, Christopher Sly, Omar Pacha, Jacques, Admiral Curzon, Count Pauline, Poor Tom, Model, Julia, and Defiance.

2nd. Mr. John Keynes, Salisbury, with Lord Ranccliffe, Squire Trow, Prince Albert, Justice Shallow, Owen Glendower, Sarah Payne, Falconbridge, Antonio, Flora's Garland, Omar Pacha, Rachel, and Admiral Curzon.

TWELVE PICOTEES.

1st. Mr. Chas. Turner, with Mrs. Hobbs, Mrs. Norman, Eugenie, Mrs. Headly, Mrs. Drake, Lizzie, Helen, Finis, Sultana, Lady Grenville, Lord Nelson, and Lamia.

• 2nd. Mr. John Keynes, with Mrs. Headly, Prince of Wales, Mrs. Kelke, Countess, Lavinia, Queen Victoria (Green), Mrs. Norman, Finis, Mrs. Hoyle, Amy Robsart, Mrs. Barnard, Duke of Devonshire.

AMATEURS.—TWELVE CARNATIONS.

1st. H. Steward, Esq., York, with Sarah Payne, Lord Ranccliffe, Flora's Garland, Falconbridge, Poor Tom, Justice Shallow, Sarah Payne, Lord Ranccliffe, British Hero, Black Diamond, unknown, and Squire Trow.

2nd. Mr. Samuel Eyre, Snenton, Notts., with Lord Ranccliffe, Falconbridge, Prince Albert (Hale), Earl Spencer, seedling P.F., Lord Milton, King of Scarlets, Poor Tom, Admiral Curzon, Firebrand, seedling, and Admiral Curzon.

3rd. Mr. R. R. Oswald, Birmingham, with Uncle Tom, Squire Trow, Magnificent, Admiral Curzon, Mr. Peto, Lorenzo, Christopher Sly, Madame Sontag, John o'Gaunt, Premier, Jenny Lind, and Queen Victoria (Simpson).

4th. W. Belcher, Esq., Abingdon, with Prince Albert (Hale), Falconbridge, Lord Ranccliffe, seedling C.B., Sarah Payne, Admiral Curzon, King John, Prince Albert, Lorenzo, Falconbridge, Firebrand, and seedling.

5th. Mr. James Taylor, Snenton, Notts., seedling, Prince Albert (Hale), Falconbridge, Madame Sontag, Splendour, Rev. I. Bramhall, Lord Milton, Lord Ranccliffe, Lovely Ann, King of Scarlets, Admiral Curzon, and Lord Byron.

6th. Mr. James Maltby, Oxford, Poor Tom, Misnomer, Benedict, Earl Grey, Count Pauline, Duchess of Gloucester, Admiral Curzon, Valentine, Rainbow, seedling, Mr. Hobbs, and Lord Ranccliffe.

TWELVE PICOTEES.

1st. Henry Steward, Esq., with Venus, Ganymede, Countess, Enchantress, Eucharist, Mrs. Barnard, Mrs. Keynes, Calliope, Countess, L'Elegant, Venus, and Duke of Devonshire.

2nd. Mr. R. R. Oswald, with Mary, Duke of Devonshire, Miss Walker, Alfred, Countess, Ganymede, Seedling No. 21, Mrs. Kelke, Finis, Rosetta, Isabella, and Unexpected.

3rd. Mr. G. Kirtland, Bletchington, with Duchess of Bedford, Sebastian, Seedling No. 8, unknown, Duke of Devonshire, Seedling No. 6, Miss Charlotte, Duchess of Bedford, Seedling No. 8, Lady Macbeth, Unexpected, and Seedling No. 4.

4th. Mr. Elkington, Buckingham, with Diadem, Finis, Duke of Devonshire, Calliope, Calliope, Prince of Wales, Delicata, Prince Arthur, Duke of Devonshire, Mrs. Kelke, Sebastian, and Portia.

5th. Mr. Samuel Eyre, with Lord Nelson, Robin Hood, Amy Robart, Duke of Devonshire, Green's Queen, Meg Merrilies, Little Harry Bertram, Annot Lyle, Little Harry Bertram, Venus, and Mrs. Bayley.

6th. Mr. Maltby, with Prince Arthur, Green's Queen, Bridesmaid, Lord Nelson, Portia, Miss Holbeck, Princess Royal, Lady Alice Peel, Duchess of Bedford, Jeanette, General Bem, and Amy Moss.

SINGLE SPECIMENS, IN CLASSES.—CARNATIONS.

Scarlet Bizarres.

- 1 Splendid, Mr. John Keynes
- 2 Admiral Curzon, Mr. C. Turner
- 3 Mr. Ainsworth, ditto
- 4 Admiral Curzon, Mr. Walker
- 5 Lord Rancilffe, Mr. Keynes

Crimson Bizarres.

- 1 General Monk, Mr. C. Turner
- 2 Oxonian, ditto
- 3 Lord Milton, H. Steward, Esq.
- 4 Jenny Lind, Mr. C. Turner
- 5 Black Diamond, Mr. J. Keynes

Pink and Purple Bizarres.

- 1 Falconbridge, H. Steward, Esq.
- 2 John o'Gaunt, Mr. J. Keynes
- 3 Sarah Payne, H. Steward, Esq.
- 4 Falconbridge, Mr. John Keynes
- 5 Ditto, ditto

Purple Flakes.

- 1 Mayor of Oldham, Mr. C. Turner
- 2 Jacques, ditto
- 3 Julia (Nicklin), ditto
- 4 Squire Meynell, ditto
- 5 Squire Trow, H. Steward, Esq.

Scarlet Flakes.

- 1 Defiance, Mr. Charles Turner
- 2 Ditto, ditto
- 3 Comet, Mr. John Keynes
- 4 Justice Shallow, ditto
- 5 Ditto, ditto

Rose Flakes.

- 1 Lady Ely, H. Steward, Esq.
- 2 Aglaia, Mr. Charles Turner
- 3 Poor Tom, Mr. John Keynes
- 4 Flora's Garland, ditto
- 5 Ditto, ditto

PICOTEES.

Heavy Red-edged.

- 1 Mrs. Norman, Mr. J. Keynes
- 2 Dr. Pittman, Mr. C. Turner
- 3 Sultana, ditto
- 4 Mrs. Norman, Mr. J. Keynes
- 5 Mrs. Hoyle, Mr. Chas. Turner

Light Red-edged.

- 1 Mary, Mr. R. R. Oswald
- 2 Barzilli, Mr. Charles Turner
- 3 Eugenie, ditto
- 4 Ditto, ditto
- 5 Duchess of Bedford, W. Colcutt

Heavy Purple-edged.

- 1 Countess, H. Steward, Esq.
- 2 Ditto, Mr. Charles Turner

- 3 Countess, Mr. Charles Turner
- 4 Lord Nelson, Mr. Samuel Eyre
- 5 Ditto, ditto

Light Purple-edged.

- 1 Finis, Mr. Charles Turner
- 2 Lineker's Seedling, Mr. S. Eyre
- 3 Finis, Mr. Charles Turner
- 4 Mrs. Keynes, Mr. John Keynes
- 5 Ditto, ditto

Heavy Rose-edged.

- 1 Alice, Mr. Charles Turner
- 2 Mrs. Drake, ditto
- 3 Ditto, ditto
- 4 Alice, ditto
- 5 Ditto, ditto

Light Rose-edged.

- 1 Ariel, Mr. Charles Turner
- 2 Mrs. Barnard, ditto
- 3 Mrs. Barnard, Mr. J. Keynes
- 4 Miss Sainsbury, ditto
- 5 Mrs. Barnard, ditto

Yellow Picotees.

- 1 Conrad, Mr. Charles Turner
- 2 Gipsy Queen, ditto
- 3 Aurora, ditto
- 4 Malvolio, ditto
- 5 Euphemia, ditto

Premier Carnation, selected from the whole exhibition.—Defiance, exhibited by Mr. Charles Turner.

Premier Picotee.—Finis, exhibited by Mr. R. R. Oswald.

The number of single specimens exhibited were—
S.B.s, 40; C.B.s, 23; P.P.B.s, 13; P.F.s, 23; S.F.s, 23; R.F.s, 24. Heavy red Picotees, 26; light red, 9; heavy purple, 24; light purple, 28; heavy rose, 24; light rose, 13; yellow Picotees, 10.

Total—Carnations..... 146

Picotees..... 144

280

DESCRIPTIVE LIST OF HYACINTHS.

BY ALPHA.

No. V.

Bride of Abydos. (Double White.)—This variety commands a high price in the catalogue, and I confess my expectation was on the stretch, anticipating something superb. That this flower is attractive I do not deny, particularly as it was one of the most admired on my bed, but I cannot with propriety elevate it to class A. The colour is indeed delicately chaste, and the size of the flower commanding, but when exposed to close criticism, it suffers in the florist's estimation. Its petals, although partially reflexed, are narrow, and the bells are too elongated. Properly speaking, it is only semi-double, yet, despite these drawbacks, it is better worth the money charged than others for which a corresponding amount is asked, for it is a really splendid *bed flower*, and its unsullied appearance rivets the attention of the most careless observer.

Bouquet Constant. (Double Blue.)—I observe in some catalogues the word *true* appended; from which I infer that a spurious variety is in circulation; but where four shillings and sixpence is the price charged, it is fair to presume that the true variety is furnished, and therefore I feel no hesita-

tion in publishing its properties, which are indeed conspicuously of a mediocre character only. Its habit is very vigorous, and it stands erect on the stem, without support, but in other respects its properties are in the highest degree objectionable. Its shade of colour is very dingy, being neither a clear blue nor permanent lilac, but apparently an intermixture of both. It is semidouble, and great gaps are in consequence observable between the petals, which completely deprives it of the outline the true florist so much delights to trace. It is decidedly a second-rate variety only, and Blocksberg, which may be purchased at the moderate price of one shilling and sixpence, is worth a hundred of it,—in fact, the old Duc de Normandie and Lord Wellington, when they are in good condition, on the bed, are far more attractive varieties.

Charlotte Marianne. (Single Red.)—This is a low-priced but a sweetly interesting variety, and of far better properties than either Princess Elizabeth or L'Amie de Cœur. Its ground colour is deep and lively, and in addition to this, each petal has a distinct stripe of darker colour down the centre. Its bells are beautifully reflexed, and it appears a variety peculiarly adapted for glasses.

● *General Moore.* (Double Red.)—This is one of the high-priced varieties, and is very late in opening. At its first expansion, it presents a stellate appearance, threatening disappointment to our anxious hopes, and before opening, the bud appears hard and unpromising, but a few days patience is amply compensated for in watching the development of its beauties. Its starry aspect soon disappears, and you have an estimable and meritorious variety, whose only drawback is the lateness of its blooming. It has, however, a significance connected with it as the last lingering beauty, offering to us a farewell glance of one of the most lovely and odoriferous classes that greet us with their loveliness ere the rude blasts of winter have entirely passed away.

Goethe. (Double Red.)—It is a relief to be able, even for a brief period, to depart from the description of defective varieties, and to have an opportunity of descanting upon floral subjects which are strikingly beautiful and attractive. Many of the varieties which are classed as reds are not really such, but are removed from the *white* class only by having a gentle waxy tint. This is not the case with the present sort, as it possesses a peculiar tint, very seldom seen, which is a softened rosy shade, beautifully blended with delicate salmon. Its habit is erect and vigorous; fine outline and decently reflexed petals. It is a good double flower, and stands prominently attractive on the bed. Goethe will long be a favourite.

Grand Vidette. (Single Blue.)—I apprehend this designation is given from its strong resemblance, when opening, to a *fine*

single variety of the same name. In boldness of bell, it ranks far below its namesake, and the addition of a single petal seems the only ground for placing it in the double class. It has a medium shade of porcelain, but while the single variety can be obtained, I shall make no effort to retain this in cultivation.

La Deese. (Double White.)—Although in this flower we are presented with some attractive points, it does not rank among the ex. ex. varieties. Its truss is tolerably dense, and the petals nicely rounded; it has a yellowish centre, and bears some resemblance to *Sceptre d'Or*, another flower in the same class, but appears to bloom earlier than that variety.

La Favourite. (Double Yellow.)—This may be a favourite with those who have a predilection for a colour somewhat between a dingy brick red and an orange. It is semidouble, and a more uninteresting variety can scarcely be imagined. I think Mynheer must have been in his cups when he bestowed the name upon this variety.

Madame Catalani. (Double Red.)—Described in the catalogues as a fine rose. Would not a *fine take-in* be a more appropriate designation? It is a flower of delicate growth and unprepossessing appearance; narrow petals and irregular habit of trussing. I do not hesitate to assert, that in point of merit, full three-fourths of the low-priced catalogued varieties in this class are *far better*.

Passetout. (Double Blue.)—This is a moderate-priced and also an interesting variety, of a dark porcelain colour, with a darker stripe down the centre of the petal. It reflexes and trusses in a very creditable style, and is one of the sorts worth inquiring after.

Temple Van Apollo. (Double Red.)—This is an old variety, of a strong shade of pink, and peculiar style of trussing. The bells, by their pendulous appearance, suggest a slight resemblance of the Chinese temples often seen in oriental pictures.

Flos Sanguineus. (Double Red.)—My last description is of an old-established variety, of dwarf habit and lively colour. The bells are of average properties, often tipped with bright green. It is an attractive sort, but does not truss well.

To the importers of Hyacinths, I would earnestly say, *remodel your catalogues*,—we love the gems of the beauteous class you distribute, but pray do not give us a collection in which inferior varieties preponderate. The Hyacinth is in the ascendant, but, without care, you soon may create disgust, and send it below zero.

TULIP NOTES AT CAMBRIDGE.

THE inclemency of the late season, and the consequent backwardness of the Tulip bloom, having doubtlessly kept many of the readers of the *Midland Florist* from visiting the Royal National Tulip Exhibition, at Cambridge, I thought I could not devote my spare time before entering upon the duty of judging to a better purpose than collecting for them all the information I possibly could respecting the flowers then present. Amongst the new varieties of the day, I saw in the collection of Mr. Lawrence, of Hampton, a very fine seedling, George Haward, a feathered bizarre, of first-rate properties, and apparently very steady in its marking. Undoubtedly it is a great acquisition to its class, but having been figured in one of the numbers of the *Florist* of last year, I need say no more about it. The same gentleman also produced several other seedlings in the same class, equally pure and nearly as good, though not quite so large, for which he gained certificates of first-class merit. In the collection of Mr. Hunt, of Wycombe, I observed a gem of the first water, a splendid seedling feathered bybloemen, raised and named by himself the Queen of the South. Its style of marking is similar to the Queen of the North, but it is a much larger and nobler-looking flower, and will add a grace to the most finished stand. It must have stood first in its class, but for two large grown rents in the petals. In the same collection was Sir Joseph Paxton, a fine feathered bizarre, one of Mr. Willison's seedlings, very pure, and good form; also another seedling feathered bizarre, Hunt's Sir G. A. Dashwood, much in the style of Paxton, with the body colour stronger, in every way first-rate. Also Robert Lawrence, a very beautiful seedling feathered bizarre, well marked, quite pure, and equally first-rate; Lady Catherine Gordon, raised

by Mr. Lightbody, of Falkirk, an attractive flamed rose, in pretty good condition, quite pure, but the form might be better; Glory of Abingdon and Polyphemus, both very good flamed bizarres; Rutley's Queen, feathered byblœmen, in good style; and Aglaia, flamed rose, also very good. Amongst those sent by the Rev. S. Creswell, of Radford, near Nottingham, I observed Mary Lamb, fine feathered rose, in good trim, but not sufficiently developed, and consequently did not show itself to the best advantage; nevertheless, its brilliant colour and pure white gives it such a finished appearance, that no lover of Flora can help admiring it. Mary Galloway, feathered rose, a Scotch seedling, is a variety, in my humble opinion, not so good as the former, being rather pointed on the petals, but is a very pure and pleasing sort. Amongst the few (bnds, I may say) which that enthusiastic florist, Mr. Thornily, of Heaton Norris, produced, was a small feathered rose, very attractive, of excellent quality, and when fully developed, is, no doubt, worthy the title conferred upon it—Queen Ann. Mr. Allestree, of Draycott, near Derby, exhibited Abbott's Gem, a very good feathered byblœmen, in first-rate character. This variety most deservedly obtained the premier prize. Mr. Allestree also had Delaforce's King, a pure fine-marking flamed bizarre, colour rather dull, and, in my opinion, too long and straight (as exhibited) to be of first-rate form, even when fully developed, but as such was not the case, I can only say, Mr. Allestree assured me the form was not objectionable; and a fine specimen of Mary Lamb, already noticed, to which the premier prize was awarded. Mr. Betteridge showed Emily, a most beautiful flamed rose, in excellent condition; Mountain Sylph, also a very good flamed rose; and David, a fine black and white flamed byblœmen. This flower took the premier prize. Kate Connor, of which there has been so much said, as exhibited in Mr. Lawrence's stand, seemed inclined to spill its colour. I don't know if this is its general

character, but think I saw one in the exhibition in better condition. The Queen of the North, in the same collection, was very pretty, indeed it is a very desirable variety as a feathered bybløemen. Mr. Turner showed Selim, a fine dark flamed bizarre, with good broad beam; Glory of Abingdon, flamed bizarre, very good, but not beamed so well as the former; Polyphemus, very fine; Rutley's Queen, feathered bybløemen, a very fine variety; and Aglaia, in good condition. Mr. Colman, of Norwich, showed Arlette, very fine feathered rose of excellent quality; Strong's King, fine flamed red bizarre, in good style; and Godet Parfait, fine dark feathered bybløemen, much in the way of the Queen of the North. Mr. Spencer, of Thulston, Derby, showed Brown's Salvator Rosa, a very good flamed bybløemen, in fine style, though this variety, in my opinion, will never be a match for Gibbons's Salvator Rosa. It is not pencilled like the latter, neither is the colour or form so good. Abbott's Gem, already noticed, was in excellent trim; and Victoria Regina, feathered bybløemen, also very good, but scarcely bleached on the tip of the outer petals. Some thought this flower ought to have disqualified the stand, but, when the flowers were expanded, where was the stand without imperfections? Mr. Lymbery, of Nottingham, showed some very good specimens, as also did several others, of which I took account, but unfortunately having mislaid my notes, I am compelled to bring this paper to a close.

WM. PARKINSON.

Abbey-street, Derby.

CURRENT EVENTS.

RUMOUR with her hundred tongues has long set forth, and truly, that Mr. George Gordon, the principal superintendent of the Horticultural Gardens, at Chiswick, and director of the exhibitions there held, once

said, "We want none of the *fellers* with their flowers, it is enough for us to raise our flag staff, and with a band of music, to draw ample company." This has now been tried, and if rumour truly reports the result, of the four thousand unused tickets after their last flower show, together with the *ample* sale by the flag-staff movement on the 28th of July, some eleven hundred attended, leaving the public holders of over three thousand tickets, now of no avail. Will such conduce to revive popularity? Will such conduce to satisfy the heavy outlay upon officers' salaries, varying respectively from five hundred pounds per annum downwards? I say that under the present *popular* management, a further mortgage must speedily be made, to defray current expenses, and this, "Current Events" will most assuredly chronicle. Nor is this all. When the determination was formed to give a *promenade musicale*, notice by circular should have been sent to all the fellows. Their annual four guineas at least required such an intimation; but no, posters were printed, and *one* was set upon the building, 21, Regent-street, and *others* were set in the waste paper corner. Truly an advertisement appeared in the *Gardeners' Chronicle*, as if that were all-sufficient, but it may well be that not one in fifty of the fellows either read the Chronicle advertisements or look on the door-posts of the society's house, 21, Regent-street. Yet this was the *modus operandi* of giving publicity to an expensive *fête*, without flowers. About eighty per cent. of the ticket holders knew nothing of the affair.

How long is this to go on? The evil day must come, when bankers will refuse to advance cash on loan notes, and the society can offer no security.

Chiswick is still the "right place," but as in other matters, foreign to floriculture, the "right men" are wanted. Could they not be found, if sought? Meanwhile the "Park" flourishes. At their last show, thirty collections of *Pelargoniums* were staged for competition, stove and greenhouse collections almost

without end, with Orchids, Roses, and fruits enough in all conscience to satisfy even the fifteen thousand visitors; and they were satisfied.

The National, on the 12th of July, was one of those unusually interesting meetings which the society occasionally realizes, and which no other society in England can equal. The seedlings and named flowers were both abundant and good, and included Pinks, Calceolarias, Dahlias, Fancy and Scarlet Pelargoniums, Roses, Verbenas, and Petunias. Verbena General Simpson received a first-class certificate, as did Pinks Purity and Peter Young. Certificates of merit were awarded to spotted Pelargonium Agnes, scarlet Pelargonium General Simpson, and shrubby Calceolaria Compacta. The exhibition of single trusses of Verbenas, by C. P. Lochner, Esq. and Mr. G. Smith, was worth a trot from Derby.

At Watford, on July 18, with permission of the Earl of Essex, Cassiobury Park was the scene of a triumph;—a proof of what a little energetic and well-directed canvass may accomplish. I refer to the successful issue of the first exhibition. A sum of one hundred and seventy-two pounds was collected from the surrounding gentry, and well did the collectors perform their promises. To my old friend, Mr. Long, of Watford, the merit belongs of getting together funds, friends, and flowers. As a show, it was really first-rate. Turner had Carnations, Picotees, Verbenas, Hollyhocks, and Pinks!! Now I think the last two subjects must be admitted as great extremes coming together. Pinks fine and Hollyhocks fine, on the same day, July 18! G. Smith and others had Verbenas. Cutbush, Edwards, and others had stove and greenhouse plants. Mr. Edwards Ferns, Lycopods, and plants with variegated foliage. Ericas were well done. Lane, Paul, and a host of Rose growers sent splendid collections. Fuchsias and fruits were abundant, and, last, not least, so were the visitors.

Following this, I next report from Buckingham,

where, on the 25th, was held their annual fete of flowers and fireworks! This meeting is with the county, *par excellence*, the one of the year. All energies are concentrated upon it, and right well were they rewarded. As a fact, it is right to state, that each of the honorary secretaries received from the hands of the friends and good folks of Buckingham a silver teapot and cream jug, value forty pounds, for the service rendered in these periodical reunions. The exhibition may be termed good, though it were unwise to criticise too closely all shown; enough it is that for a five pound challenge for the best hundred fruits of Strawberries, the winning tray (British Queens) weighed one hundred and twelve ounces, while the losing hundred weighed no less than ninety-six ounces. Messrs. Soden, of Middle Barton, Oxon, made a fine display, with bouquets of cut Pelargoniums. Messrs. Lane had twelve boxes of cut Roses. Turner had Dahlias, Carnations, and Picotees. These, with a few plants, well-managed collections of cut flowers, together with the delightful band of the First Life Guards, left little to be desired. At the dinner, at the town hall, over which his Grace the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos presided, two hundred and thirty of the clergy and gentry of the neighbourhood sat down, and the visitors (ladies) were even more numerous. Messrs. J. Edwards and W. P. Ayres were the censors.

On the 26th, at the National, a good exhibition was again made with Balsams, Calceolarias, Carnations, Dahlias, Hollyhocks, Fancy and Scarlet Pelargoniums, Picotees, Petunias, Roses, and Verbenas. Prizes were awarded to Messrs. Turner and Baker, for Carnations and Picotees, the best varieties being Exit, Lord Rancliffe, Sarah Payne, Poor Tom, Rubens, Squire Trow, Dr. Lindley, Ariel, and Prince Albert (Hale). Picotees, Mrs. Pittman, Mrs. Norman, Ganymede, Mrs. Headly, Miss Mitford, Mrs. Drake, James II., Countess, Princess Royal, Christa-

bel, and Lamia. Certificates were awarded to Verbenas Eugenie and Petunia Hermione. Label of commendation to Verbenas Sir E. Lyons. Censors, Messrs. Cook, Edwards, Turner, Lidgard, and A. Smith.

Exhibitions were held at Hereford and at Handsworth, on the 31st. The Hereford growers and their neighbours have, within a very brief time, made commendable progress in cultivation, attributable, doubtless, to the competition which their periodical exhibitions produce, and to the keen and watchful care of the society's chairman, Dr. Bull, than whom a more painstaking, prompt, and energetic manager does not exist. Stove and greenhouse plants, in collections of nine, were good specimens of cultivation, equalling many I have seen in and around the metropolis. Of Ferns the like may be said. *Cissus discolor*, as a single specimen, was infinitely superior to any hitherto exhibited. In fact, in each and all, Roses, Verbenas, Hollyhocks, Dahlias, Carnations, Picotees, fruits, plants, designs, &c. were to be found evidence of a decided improvement, if not a close approximation to general excellence, nor were the instances of superiority few and far between, whilst as a rule, every class of flowers brought from four to ten competitors. The cottagers share in the spirit of liberality evinced towards all pertaining to gardening, and not only are their productions rewarded, but their gardens and homes are selected for the awards of the society. Long may such charitable feelings possess the good folks of the city of Hereford.

The events of the 2nd of August, at Oxford, in relation to the Carnation and Picotee exhibition, I shall purposely leave to the conductor of the *Midland Florist*, resting content that all will be said that need be said.

The Derby event, August 14th, was not without its interest to me, and claims a notice as an instance of a well varied and scientific general exhibition. The day was fine, the company numerous and gay,

the management, order, and discipline in perfection. It may savour of flattery, yet such shall not deter me from rendering due praise to Messrs. Dodwell and Bayley, the indefatigable secretaries, to both of whom I here tender my best thanks, for the ready means afforded to me of acquiring the particulars of the several awards, and of thus imparting my ideas of the exhibition of the Midland Horticultural Society, on the day in question, less as a report for local information than for the comparison which I may draw with other similar gatherings. Taken all in all, Derby may boast of sterling worth in much that pertains to general excellence in exhibitional subjects, including fruits, flowers, plants, and vegetables. Messrs. Jackson, Dryden, and Bayley, with Sir Thomas Parkyns, Bart., make plants a true feature; the collective specimens, even at so late a season, were decidedly first-class. *Kalosanthes*, *Ixoras*, *Achimenes*, *Allamandas*, *Sollyas*, *Stephanotis*, *Nepenthes*, Ferns, Lycopods, Orchids, Vincas, &c. were all amply represented by fine specimens, nothing inferior to the best of the year. Roses were nicely set forth; those by Mr. Allestree especially so. Local Dahlia growers have yet some scope left for progression, and I hope they may have profited by the display of the collection from Mr. Turner. Six blooms of the seedling Miss Burdett Coutts obtained a first-class certificate, an honour seldom sought by members of the society, the why I know not, considering the range taken in the selection of popular and reliable censors. The Hollyhock flowers from the Slough establishment, obtained, and most deservedly, a large share of praise. Of these, Mrs. Parsons, Miss Parsons, Standard, Pilot, Little Gem, and Eugenie, may be set down as amongst the best of the novelties. The Carnations and Picotees from the same source were the remains of a giant collection, from which have been successfully shown stands, from July 18th to August 15th. Mr. Jackson, Mr. Dryden, and others made a fair display with fruits;

Mr. Walkerdine with gooseberries; Mr. Cooling contributed a large, interesting, and varied collection of plants, much to the credit of his establishment. Fuchsias could and must be improved upon; they were the *mediocre* of the day. The presence of E. J. Lowe, Esq. made a fine collection of Ferns doubly interesting. The best specimens are included in my notice of a late National event, but to the Derby collections must be awarded size only to be attained by age. I observed *Adiantum affine*, *A. formosum*, and *A. circulatum*; *Gymnogramma Mertensi*, *Lycopodium Scandens*, *Cheilanthes lendigera* (a fine specimen), *Platynerium alicorne*, *Hemonites palmata*, *Lycopodium verticulosum*, *cordifolium*, *cœsium*, *aposum*, and *Davallia paxidata*, &c.

I fear to launch into Carnations and Picotees, the subject being so intimately within the powers of Mr. Conductor. I will, therefore, simply state, that the getting-up of the Derby flowers would in nothing fail in a contest with all England. There were, however, several styles to be detected; that of Messrs. Dodwell and Bayley being all chastity and refinement; Mr. Eyre lacking these, but claiming robustness; Mr. Hedderly studying colour, and marking. These gave his stand the preference over Mr. Bayley's Carnations. Mr. Parkinson (our William) goes too much, I think, for marking alone, which, after all, is but one of the many points required in a stand of flowers. Of the Derby arboretum itself, a more enjoyable spot for a flower show does not exist, and the general keeping reflects high credit upon the management.

Cultivators of florists' flowers should never be without a good supply of number pegs or labels, which, for open ground use, should not be less than six inches in length; for pot use, four inches will be sufficient. By all means let these be made of uniform shape and size; neatness and order are much increased by these methodical arrangements.

EXTRACTS, HINTS, AND RECOLLECTIONS



THE PHILOSOPHY OF FLORISTS' FLOWERS,

[Reprinted from the Florist for 1849.]

No. VI.

ON variety I would observe, that by this term I do not mean exactly that quality which gives value to a new seedling plant; by reason of its being different from others already in cultivation; but a quality to be looked for in any single given specimen, irrespective of others; that is, not comparative, but absolute; not as differing from its fellows, but as containing differences in itself. And this quality, as I observed before, may arise from either of the three sources of form, number, or colour, or from any two, or all united. The Passion-flower, and still more the Water-lily, strike the eye as much from their varied forms as colours; and the Hyacinth derives its principal and constant value, irrespective of colour, from the same source. The petals of the Ranunculus are alike in form and markings, but their numbers contribute as much to an appearance of variety as to fulness of outline. And a bizarre Carnation, or which has two colours besides the ground, is considered to belong to a higher class than the simple flaked kinds. From whatever source, however, arising, it is essential that the florists' flower which would claim a high position should not be deficient in this. In a bed, or a border, the brilliant colour of some self-flowers make them the most useful and attractive of all, as the Scarlet Geranium, the Gentianella, the Lobelia cardinalis or cœrulea, the Nemophila, and others; but that is because variety is produced by their being seen as a whole, and contrasted with surrounding objects. Separate a single blossom from the plant, and examine it atten-

tively, and you will find it flag in its interest sooner than one in which relief is given to the eye by variety. Its properties are perceived at a glance, and the eye has done its office; and our copy-books will be found to enunciate a philosophical truth, when they impress upon the child what the child knows better than any philosopher, that it is variety that is charming.

I. It is produced by form. No class of plants approach the Orchids in illustration of this. Very few of their blossoms have simple forms; and when there is a leading feature, as in the Papilio, in some of which a butterfly is represented as faithfully as a bee in a Larkspur, the whole blossom, nevertheless, is complex. Indeed, it is probably as much from the endless variety in every department of that quality that is found in these flowers, as for any individual superiority they possess, though this too must be accorded to them, that they owe their unrivalled popularity. But as these are beyond the reach of ordinary growers, I prefer drawing my illustrations from more familiar objects.

A very good instance is the Fuchsia. At present, and until *F. spectabilis* has revolutionized the tribe, its pendulous character, its want of petalous expansion, and its glossy texture of skin, unbroken for the greater part of its length, seem to remove it in appearance from the class of flowers, and liken it to a fruit. It is, however, and will probably always continue very popular, and it has several points of high excellence, of which I have here only to remark upon those which depend upon the variety of its outline.

Flowers of this class differ from those of a more uniform surface in a manner somewhat analogous to the difference between sculpture and paintings, and are hardly more fit to exhibit delicate markings of colour than a statue would be. Contrasts, brilliance, or an attractive colour as a whole, are the points in this respect in which their excellence is to be sought.

But the very unevenness of form which prevents the finer uses of colouring, is itself the parent of many advantages. The general outline is ever varying, and never the same from any two points of view. The ordinary position of the bloom of the Fuchsia on the plant is full of variety. The long and gracefully arched footstalk, the seedpod, the tube itself rarely cylindrical, the calyx, the corolla, the anthers, the pistil, form a constantly varying and pleasing outline. But in this position the petals are for the most part, and sometimes entirely, hidden; and if you examine them, the tube is out of sight. It is owing chiefly to this that the notched starry appearance of the open sepals in most varieties, so disagreeable in other flowers, is no dissight in this; indeed, it has a positive advantage, in opening to sight the contrasted colours of the corolla within.

Nor does it signify whether the variety of form be in the substance or in the markings of flowers. The Carnation owes much, though not all, of its superiority to the Picotee or the Pink (excuse me, ladies,) to the fact that, without violence to its general unity, it has no two petals, and no two stripes on the same petal, alike in the form of their colours. A *Calceolaria* that has its spots or its stripes all of the same size and shape is tame, compared with one that is more varied in its markings.

The *Pelargonium* and the Pansy have many points common to both, and each flower has its respective admirers; but general estimation assigns the palm to the former; and it may be interesting, and not uninteresting, to trace to the quality now under consideration some of the superiority of the one over the other. The number of petals, their form, the order of their disposition, and their relative importance, are the same in both flowers. The general outline is, in the main, alike, and the required properties, as far as they can be compared, not very different; yet the ideas excited by them are exceedingly dissimilar, the reasons of which I will now investigate.

1. The *Pelargonium* has a throat, the Pansy terminates at the eye; and therefore the former has a whole class of properties of which the latter is deprived; and these, though not numerous, have a very influential bearing upon the general appearance of the flower, and are becoming of more importance to its estimation every year. Here is an advantage in respect of variety.

2. Again, an immediate result from its closed throat is, that the Pansy cannot be too flat; whereas a flat-centered *Pelargonium*, like *Meleager*, proves that the brightest colour loses something of its brightness, and becomes flat-coloured from the deadness of the surface. The form of the *Pelargonium* has the advantage again in variety, which gives greater effect to its colours.

3. A corresponding difference is observable also at the limb or outer extremity. Owing partly to its flat centre and partly to its flimsy substance, the edge of the Pansy must be flat likewise. In fact, it never curves inwards but when withering, or outwards but from inability to support its own weight. The stouter texture of the *Pelargonium* admits of its being slightly either inflected or reflected, and thus another source of graceful variety is obtained, the one making an approach in form to the reversed ogee, or Hogarth's line of beauty, the other to that of the rim of a Tuscan vase. And *Meleager* is, as might be expected, an instance in this too of the loss sustained by a flower which gives up one of its properties, for it is as level as a Pansy; and therefore, notwithstanding its very high colour and beautiful tint, it is not brilliant. Nor, high as was its price, last October, do I suppose we shall hear much more of it. There is much value in the varying surface of the *Pelargonium*, another proof of which will be referred to presently, under another head; and therefore, from its greater richness in variety of outline, as well as for some other advantages, it is completely removed from fear of rivalry on the part of its humbler but not less pretty sister, the Pansy.

Variety may also be produced by number, when the units composing it are alike, as in spotted, striped, or double flowers. Thus a spotted *Calceolaria* or a striped Marigold is not destitute of variety, by reason of the many changes of individual object the eye has to take in. The same may be said of a double Rose or Dahlia. Not that this is the only object attained by multiplying the petals, because the general outline commonly undergoes thereby a complete alteration, and properties that were prominent before become subordinate, or altogether obliterated, and others take their place. From this it happens that some flowers, as the Tulip, are handsomer when single, others when double, as the Rose. Nor is it always easy to predict which of the two is the more desirable form, until actual comparison has decided between them. A few general remarks, however, are applicable.

1. To bear the double condition with advantage the petals must be symmetrical, or such as that, a line being drawn lengthwise through the centre, the parts on each side of this line shall be alike. For if otherwise, the entire petal will have a peculiar and distinctive shape, in which some, and perhaps the chief, properties of the flower are contained; and these will be hidden and lost in the double form. The lower petals of the *Pelargonium* are symmetrical; but the upper petals are not, and in these the leading characters are found. And therefore a double *Pelargonium* would be no advantage. The double condition would reduce all at an equal distance from the centre to an equal value, or else would make a one-sided flower. It so happens that direct experiment has in a manner shown this to be correct, for this year I had a blossom of *Aurora* with four upper and six under petals, an exactly double allowance; and certainly it was no improvement.

2. Size by itself gives no means of judging: for the Dahlia is as large as the Tulip, and the former gains, while the latter loses, by being doubled. So

again, on the other side, the *Hepatica* loses, while the Daisy and American Groundsel, which are no larger, gain by it.

3. But size and colour conjointly do enable us in some measure to form a judgment. For if delicacy of touch in the strokes of the colouring be one of the leading characteristics of the flower, according to which varieties are discerned and prized, the individual blossom is of more importance than the mass of bloom, and size (proportionate to the growth and habit of the plant) is indispensable; in which case, multiplying the petals hides the beauties and deteriorates the character. A double *Auricula* or a double *Tulip* could never be endued with so many points of excellence as belong to them in their single state. This is not the case with a *Rose* or a *Dahlia*. They are large, but their colour is valued as a whole, not in its parts; and the variety caused by numerous petals and a filled-up outline is advantageous to them, as their size admits of such an increase without detriment to their brightness.

But if, on the contrary, it is the colour itself, and not the pencilling of colour, that is the characteristic, and the size of the individual blossom be small, then the brilliancy is greatly impaired by the flower being doubled. The single and the double pink *Hepatica* are of the same hue; but the single one is far the more striking flower, because its whole bright surface is seen. In the double, the petals being so small and seen edgewise, much of the brightness is lost, and it looks comparatively uninteresting. In the *Dahlia*, *Rose*, and others, the surface is so much larger that this effect is not produced.

The colours of the *Cineraria* are so bright, in some instances so dazzlingly so, that even while its pretensions were far humbler than they are now, I have doubted whether, in losing the intensity of its hue, which would be unavoidable, were it to become double, it would not proportionably lose its interest. It is now, however, developing qualities which put

the other impediment also in the way, and render a double *Cineraria* a thing not to be wished for.

Of variety produced by colours I shall speak under the head of colour.

IOTA.

[To be continued.]

HINTS FOR THE MONTH.

FLORISTS' FLOWERS.

AURICULAS.—Continue to remove the foliage as it decays, and keep the plants clean and clear of insects, the common aphid particularly. Moderate waterings must be given regularly, if the weather continue dry, and if wet, light showers will be preferable. See that the surface of the soil is open; slight stirrings are always attended with benefit, and should be repeated as often as the surface appears closed. If any plants intended for next year's exhibitions throw up for bloom, allow the stems to rise above the foliage, and then carefully rub off the buds from the crown of the stem, without injuring the latter, if it can be avoided.

CALCEOLARIAS.—Look well to the whole stock, old and young, to keep it clean,—aphides and their accompaniments are utter destruction to all tender foliage, and the curl of the leaf which follows their attack makes a harbour from which it is difficult to dislodge them by fumigation. Shade in the heat of the day, and give all air possible at night; sheltering from soaking rains. Sow seed, if not done, if it is desirable to have strong plants in spring.

CARNATIONS AND PICOTÉES.—Finish off any layering, without delay. See that those already layered are firm in the soil, and cover over any which may have become too much exposed. Keep clear of greenfly, which is very injurious at this season. get compost ready for winter stock, also for next season's bloom.

CINERARIAS.—Propagate young stock of esteemed varieties. Shift on those which require more room. Watch for mildew, which is sometimes destructive at this season. Plenty of air and judicious watering are most conducive to health at all seasons. Seed may still be sown where late flowering plants are required.

DAHLIAS will require constant attention in securing their shoots to the stakes and clearing away dead blooms. They should be looked over, and when they are incorrectly named,

this should be done correctly, before they get the least injured by frost. Those grown for competition will require a good supply of water, should the weather be dry. Remove all lateral shoots now, and disbud according to the nature of the variety. *Earwigs* continue to destroy as long as they make their appearance.

EPACRIS.—Should this month prove genial, and even the first two weeks in October, Epacris are better out of doors than in. About that time, many varieties will show for flower, when they should be housed, and the temperature of the house regulated according to whether an early or late bloom is wanted. By this means they may be hastened or retarded at least six weeks. Water in moderation.

ERICAS.—Guard from excess of wet, from which they soon suffer. They should not be stimulated into over growth at this season. Should mildew present itself, sulphur the moment it is detected, using an old pepper box for the purpose, and washing it off with the syringe the next day.

FUCHSIAS.—Any intended for very early flowering should now be cut down, and kept as dormant as possible.

PANSIES.—Plant out for an early bloom next season, and pot up into small sizes such plants as are intended for blooming in pots next spring. Plant out seedlings, and continue to propagate by cuttings and dividing the root.

PELARGONIUMS.—General attention is now required to keep the plants clear from greenfly, and it must be done by fumigation. If any plants are standing out of doors, they should either be put into a greenhouse or frame, but the house is preferable. If the plants are left out of doors, they become soddened with wet, which will most likely bring on spot, and cause them to look unhealthy through the winter. Having but little young wood to support, they require little water to keep them in good health. It will be well, this month, to get the different soils into an open shed, ready for repotting, at the final shift for the year. This soil should not be wet when used, only moist, not dry. Stop back young plants that have been struck this season, so as to leave about three or four eyes to break from; this will cause them to make healthy plants. Seedlings should be shifted from the seed pans into small pots, as soon as they get four leaves. Water with a fine rose, and shade for a few days.

PINKS.—If the young plants are not already planted out, let this be attended to. Pot those intended for wintering in pots.

RANUNCULUSES.—Preparations should now be made for next spring. Manures can be mixed, composts turned, beds excavated, much better now than in February; the soil will work in better condition, and have time to settle. The first sowing of seed may be made in boxes of any portable size, and six inches deep. Place them under glass, as a protection from

heavy rains, but not in a close frame. As the seed should not be more than the sixteenth of an inch deep, regard must be had to the supplying an even amount of moisture; excess of either drought or rain is ruinous.

TULIPS.—The bulbs will now be at rest, safely, it is to be hoped, in boxes and bags, where they should remain until attention is again required. They should, however, be occasionally looked over, in order to ascertain how they are keeping. If mouldiness attack them, it should be carefully removed, and the boxes and bags well aired, on a dry day.

CALENDAR OF OPERATIONS, FOR SEPTEMBER.

[*From Rendle's Price Current and Garden Directory.*]

THE soiling of Celery, and a high amount of culture to all salads are among the chief points at this period. The blanching of Lettuce, Endive, &c. must be taken in hand almost weekly; always selecting a dry day for the tying process. High culture will be requisite among the Cabbage-worts, Broccoli, &c.; and above all, let a good breadth of Coleworts be got in during the first week. These, if selected from our early-hearting kinds, and from a sowing made in the end of June, will produce a most necessary article during October, November, December, and January.

Cropping is now drawing to a close; attention will, however, be required to crops planted out; hoeing, cleaning, and encouraging by the application of liquid manure. Pay attention to those young crops intended to stand the winter; plant such in the warmest and most sheltered spots in the garden.

POTATOES.—Take up those that are ripe, and store away dry, taking care to put none away but such as are free from disease. Let them be placed in heaps, not too large, and cover them with straw and mould sufficient to protect them from the frost.

CELERY.—Continue to earth up finally, and always take advantage of dry weather for the operation.

CAULIFLOWERS.—Prick out those sown in August, in a sheltered situation; endeavour to get them as sturdy as possible, that they may be better able to stand the winter. Plant them out so that they may be covered with hand-glasses or frames, at will.

COLEWORTS AND CABBAGES.—Plant. The former will come into use early in spring, and the latter from May to July.

CARROTS, PARSNIPS, AND BEET.—When the leaves begin to turn yellow, they should be taken up and stored away, as directed for Potatoes.

SALADS.—Sow according to demand, till middle of October.

ENDIVE.—Tie up and blanch. Transplant for late supply.

LETTUCE sown in the early part of August will require planting out, six inches apart, on a warm border, to stand the winter.

SALSAFY AND SCORZONEBA.—Take up and store away, as directed for Carrots and Potatoes.

PARSLEY.—Cut down, that it may make a fresh supply of leaves, before severe weather comes on to prevent it.

FLORAL EXHIBITIONS.

MANCHESTER AND SOUTH LANCASHIRE AMATEUR TULIP SOCIETY.

First Meeting, held at Didsbury, May 31.

Judges.—Mr. James Houlker, jun., Blackburn; Mr. Dobbings, Leeds; and Mr. Pott, Macclesfield.

The best pan of six rectified flowers was awarded to J. Thorniley, Esq., for Lady Wildare, Charles X., San Joe, Andromeda, Lawrence's Friend, and Queen Charlotte. The second best to G. W. Hardy, Esq., for Lewold, Lord Denman, Heroine, Comte de Vergennes, Charles X. and Polyphemus.

The best pan of three breeders was awarded to L. Ashmole, for Duke of Kent, Godet Parfait, and Lady Catharine Gordon.

Feathered Bizarres.

- 1 Captain White, G. W. Hardy, Esq.
- 2 Magnum Bonum, ditto
- 3 Charles X., ditto
- 4 Surpass Catafalque, ditto
- 5 Waterloo, E. Dean
- 6 Duke of Devonshire, G. W. Hardy
- 7 Marius, J. Slater
- 8 Caliph, G. W. Hardy, Esq.

Flamed Bizarres.

- 1 San Joe, S. Barlow
- 2 Pilot, ditto
- 3 Vivid, J. Thorniley, Esq.
- 4 Duke of Devonshire, S. Barlow
- 5 Pompe Funebre, J. Ackerley
- 6 Richard Dixon, G. W. Hardy, Esq.
- 7 Albion, J. Ackerley
- 8 Marshal Soult, J. Thorniley, Esq.

Feathered Byblæmens.

- 1 Rutley's Queen, J. Thorniley, Esq.
- 2 Lancashire Hero, E. Dean
- 3 Lewold, G. W. Hardy, Esq.
- 4 Bienfait, T. Hollingworth
- 5 Edgar, G. W. Hardy, Esq.
- 5 Beauty, E. Dean
- 7 Wonder (Jersey), G. W. Hardy, Esq.
- 8 Maid of Orleans, ditto

Flamed Byblæmens.

- 1 Lord Denman, G. W. Hardy, Esq.
- 2 Beauty of the Plain, ditto
- 3 Bacchus, ditto
- 4 Camarine, J. Thorniley, Esq.
- 5 General Barneveldt, ditto
- 6 Grotius, T. Hollingworth

- 7 Bijou, E. Dean
- 8 Bienfait, S. Barlow

Feathered Roses.

- 1 Kate Connor, G. W. Hardy, Esq.
- 2 Heroine, ditto
- 3 Comte de Vergennes, J. Slater
- 4 Aglaia, G. W. Hardy, Esq.
- 5 Andromeda, ditto
- 6 Queen Eleanor, R. Dixon
- 7 Lady Crewe, S. Barlow
- 8 Village Maid, E. Dean

Flamed Roses.

- 1 Manteau Ducale, L. Ashmole
- 2 Lady Catharine Gordon, G. W. Hardy
- 3 Slater's Queen Philippa, ditto
- 4 Cerise a Belle Forme, ditto
- 5 Aglaia, ditto
- 6 Rose Emily, J. Thorniley, Esq.
- 7 Lady Stanley, T. Hollingsworth
- 8 Duchess of Sutherland, G. W. Hardy

Bizarre Breeders.

- 1 Masterpiece, L. Ashmole
- 2 Pilot, G. W. Hardy, Esq.
- 3 Gold Cup, T. Hollingworth
- 4 Seedling, L. Ashmole

Byblæmen Breeders.

- 1 Sancta Sophia, J. Ackerley
- 2 Britannia, G. W. Hardy, Esq.
- 3 Roger Aecham, J. Slater
- 4 Seedling, ditto

Rose Breeders.

- 1 Lord Derby, E. Dean
- 2 Village Maid, ditto
- 3 Seedling, L. Ashmole
- 4 Rosy Queen, G. W. Hardy, Esq.

Second Meeting, held at Osborne House, Rochdale-road, Manchester, June 7.

Judges, Mr. Ralph Howarth, Blackburn; Mr. Dobbings, Leeds; and Mr. William Chadwick, Ashton.

The best pan of six rectified flowers was awarded to R. Nunnerley, for Charles X., San Joe, Lady Stanley, Bacchus, Heroine, and Aglaia. Second best S. Barlow, Masterpiece, Shakspeare, Violet Amiable, Bacchus, Heroine, Aglaia.

Best breeder pan, L. Ashmole, Pilot, seedling, and Lord Derby.

Feathered Bizarres.

- 1 Charles X., S. Barlow
- 2 Seedling, L. Ashmole
- 3 Magnum Bonum, S. Barlow
- 4 Apelles, S. Bromley
- 5 King, R. Dixon
- 6 Surpass Catalaue, S. Bromley
- 7 Mayor of Macclesfield, ditto
- 8 Paul Pry, J. Peacock, Esq.

Flamed Bizarres.

- 1 Polyphemus, G. W. Hardy, Esq.
- 2 Truth, S. Barlow
- 3 Charles X., J. L. Richardson
- 4 Defiance, Bracewell
- 5 San Joe, S. Bromley
- 6 Paul Pry, J. Peacock, Esq.
- 7 Don Cossack, J. Thorniley, Esq.
- 8 Marshal Soult, G. W. Hardy, Esq.

Feathered Byblæmens.

- 1 Lewold, S. Barlow
- 2 Bienfait, L. Ashmole
- 3 Violet Quarto, S. Bromley
- 4 Baguet, J. L. Richardson
- 5 Beauty, S. Bromley
- 6 York Minster, J. Thorniley, Esq.
- 7 Grotius, J. Hart
- 8 Chellaston Beauty, G. W. Hardy, Esq.

Flamed Byblæmens.

- 1 Bacchus, S. Bromley
- 2 Baguet, T. Hollingworth
- 3 Incomparable, J. Hart
- 4 Violet Wallers, J. Ackerley
- 5 Victoria Regina, T. B. Faulkner, Esq.
- 6 Sportsman, S. Bromley

- 7 Princess Royal, T. Hollingworth
- 8 Beauty of the Plain, G. W. Hardy

Feathered Roses.

- 1 Lady Crewe, S. Barlow
- 2 Heroine, R. Dixon
- 3 Comte de Vergennes, L. Ashmole
- 4 Aglaia, G. W. Hardy, Esq.
- 5 Mary Lamb, S. Bromley
- 6 Monument, R. Dixon
- 7 Mrs. Dixon, ditto
- 8 Rosy Queen, G. W. Hardy, Esq.

Flamed Roses.

- 1 Lady Catharine Gordon, S. Bromley
- 2 Aglaia, J. Hart
- 3 Thalestris S. Bromley
- 4 Queen Philippa, J. Peacock, Esq.
- 5 Camillus, E. Dean
- 6 La Vandicken, J. Slater
- 7 Unique, L. Ashmole
- 8 Triomphe Royale, J. Thorniley, Esq.

Bizarre Breeders

- 1 Seedling, S. Barlow
- 2 Seedling L. Ashmole
- 3 John o'Gaunt, J. Hart
- 4 Sir Joseph Paxton, J. Peacock, Esq.

Bybloemen Breeders.

- 1 Queen, J. Thorniley, Esq.
- 2 Peter Waldo, J. Slater
- 3 Miss Forrest, R. Nunnerley
- 4 Godet Parfait, S. Bromley

Rose Breeders.

- 1 Queen of England, S. Bromley
- 2 Rosy Gem, ditto
- 3 Celestial, S. Barlow
- 4 Lord Derby, R. Nunnerley

Lady Wildare was Comte de Vergennes flamed, and York Minster is Sable Monarch.

NORTHAMPTON AND NORTHAMPTONSHIRE FLORAL AND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The Tulip Show of the above society took place at the Swan and Helmet Inn, Gold-street, Northampton, May 31st. The awards were as follows:—

Best Twelve.—T. Watts, jun., for Dutch Catalaue, Royal Sovereign, Captain White, Imperatrice Romaine, Princess Royal, Lawrence's Friend, Harriet, Maid of Orleans, Heroine, Bien Comte de Vergennes, and Miss Auld. 2nd, J. Orchard, Stony Stratford, for Platoff, Paul Pry, Caliph, Duke of Devonshire, Roscius, Gem (byb.), Grace Darling, Transparent Noir, Heroine, Duchess of Kent, Gem (rose), and Midland Beauty.

Best Six.—H. Archer, Platoff, Duke of Devonshire, Van Amburg, feathered byb. unknown, Aglaia, and Comte de Vergennes. 2nd, J. Holliday, Duke of Devonshire, Optimus, Alcon, Cleopatra, Duke of Rutland, and Lord Hill.

Feathered Bizarres.

- 1 Dutch Catafalque, T. Watts
- 2 Platoff, J. Orchard
- 3 Magnum Bonum, H. Archer
- 8 Sovereign, J. Holliday

Flamed Bizarres.

- 1 Duke of Devonshire, J. Watts
- 2 Duke of Devonshire, J. Orchard
- 3 Hamnden, J. Holliday
- 3 Defiance, H. Archer

Feathered Byblæmens.

- 1 Grotius, T. Watts
- 2 Prince Albert, J. Orchard

3 Not awarded

Flamed Byblæmens.

- 1 Lord Denman, T. Watts
- 2 Elegans, J. Holliday
- 3 Violet Alexander, J. Orchard

Feathered Roses.

- 1 Triomphe Royale, T. Wat
- 2 Clark's XXX, J. Holliday
- 3 Catharine, J. Orchard

Flamed Roses.

- 1 Agiafa, T. Watts
- 2 Triomphe Royale, J. Holliday
- 3 Heroine, J. Orchard

GREAT SOUTH LANCASHIRE TULIP SOCIETY.

At the Nottingham Castle Inn, Denton, June 9.

Judges — Mr. Henry Brown, and Mr. Joseph Oldham.

A silver cup, value £5, was awarded to T. Leech, for the best stand of two rectified flowers, viz., San Joe, and Charles X.

Feathered Premier, Charles X., S. Ardern; Flamed Premier, Duke of Devonshire, S. Barlow; Breeder Premier, seedling, Z. Peacock, Esq.

Feathered Bizarres.

- 1 Charles X., S. Ardern
- 2 Sidney J. Naylor
- 3 Paul Pry, J. Turner, Esq.
- 4 Pass Catafalque, J. Sidley
- 5 Ethelstane, ditto
- 6 Lord Lilford, L. Ashmole
- 7 Charbonnier, W. Peacock, Esq.
- 8 Seedling, L. Ashmole

Flamed Bizarres.

- 1 Duke of Devonshire, S. Barlow
- 2 San Joe, S. Ardern
- 3 Vivid, S. Barlow
- 4 Polyphemus, T. Leech
- 5 Pilot, H. Parsonage
- 6 Charbonnier, W. Peacock, Esq.
- 7 Albion, J. Sidley
- 8 Truth, J. Naylor

Feathered Byblæmens.

- 1 Edgar, J. Peacock, Esq.
- 2 Beauty, J. Turner, Esq.
- 3 Bienfait, Z. Peacock, Esq.
- 4 Sir H. Pottinger, W. Peacock, Esq.
- 5 Lancashire Hero, S. Ardern
- 6 Surpassant, L. Ashmole
- 7 Sarah, T. Leech
- 8 Lord Denman, W. Peacock, Esq.

Flamed Byblæmens.

- 1 Incomparable, S. Ardern
- 3 Flora, W. Peacock, Esq.
- 3 Violet Waller, S. Barlow
- 4 Bacchus, L. Ashmole
- 5 Buckley's 71, J. Baxendale, Esq.
- 6 Bienfait, S. Ardern
- 7 Beauty, J. Naylor
- 8 Blanche, J. Peacock, Esq.

Feathered Roses.

- 1 Heroine, S. Barlow

- 2 Jupiter, J. Turner, Esq.
- 3 Lady Crewe, L. Ashmole
- 4 Comte de Vergennes, S. Ardern
- 5 Andromeda, T. Leech
- 6 Kate Connor, J. Turner, Esq.
- 7 Confidant, J. Naylor
- 8 Lady Catharine Gordon, ditto

Flamed Roses.

- 1 Unique, J. Baxendale, Esq.
- 2 Vesta, S. Ardern
- 3 Lady Suffield, ditto
- 4 Agiafa, R. Peacock, Esq.
- 5 Triomphe Royale, L. Ashmole
- 6 La Vandicken, ditto
- 7 Thalestris, J. Naylor
- 8 Lord Hill, J. Baxendale, Esq.

Bizarre Breeders.

- 1 Seedling, L. Ashmole
- 2 ditto ditto
- 3 Duke of Kent, ditto
- 4 King, J. Turner, Esq.
- 5 D. Hamilton, L. Ashmole
- 6 Earl Radnor, J. Peacock, Esq.

Byblæmen Breeders.

- 1 Seedling, Z. Peacock, Esq.
- 2 Sancta Sophia, L. Ashmole
- 3 Catharine, J. Sidley
- 4 Martha, J. Naylor
- 5 Sarah, T. Leech
- 6 Godet Parfait, J. Sidley

Rose Breeders.

- 1 Celestial, J. Naylor
- 2 Eugenie, J. Peacock, Esq.
- 3 Arlette, ditto
- 4 Lord Derby, L. Ashmole
- 5 Lady Catharine, ditto
- 6 Village Maid, W. Peacock, Esq.

ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

THE NORTHERN COUNTIES CARNATION AND
PICOTEE SOCIETY.

THE second annual exhibition of this society took place in the Botanical Gardens, Old Trafford, Manchester, on the 17th of August. Cordially admiring the energy of character and earnestness of purpose which characterize our Lancashire friends, even when we have dissented from some of them in opinion, we had long desired to see them "at home." Firmly convinced that no men could be more in earnest in their desire to advance the progress of floriculture, we felt satisfied we should find much to admire, much worthy of study, and many things in which we could take counsel together. We were in nothing disappointed in our visit. In many particulars our most sanguine expectations were far exceeded, and on all sides we received so cordial and kindly a welcome, that no language of ours can adequately acknowledge it. If, on one or two points, we venture to offer a few suggestions, we beg our friends to believe we do so in no spirit of self-sufficiency.

First and foremost, we were delighted to find how efficiently the society was supported;—twenty-seven good men and true being assembled to contest the honours of the day, a number exceeding by one the largest muster previously known;—and not less were we gratified with the delightful gardens, the splendid glass house in which the display was to be made, the canopied and baize-covered tables, the introduction of the New Holland plants and other foliage, for the purpose of relief, and the handsome support which the council of the Botanic Society had

so liberally given. In such circumstances, it must be the fault of florists if their exhibitions are not esteemed, and it can, we think, need but little forethought, with some artistic feeling, to secure for them the highest possible success. An immense step in advance has been taken by the adoption of the system of showing the flowers in collections, and this needs but be followed out. We think as a florist we do not underrate the importance of pitting flower against flower, and we should cling tenaciously to every test by which the standard properties of flowers, new or old, could be preserved in their integrity. But we know well that that goal of the florist's ambition, effect (though some of us do not seem to know that that is the goal of a florist's ambition), depends so much more upon the exhibition of well-arranged collections, than upon any number of single flowers, that we must be forgiven in laying stress upon the point. As we entered the house, and took in at a glance the capabilities of the place, we pictured in our mind's eye what might be done with the means then at command. First of all, prizes for twenty-four boxes of twelve blooms, about five hundred single specimens (more would be troublesome), Ferns, Lycopods, and plants with variegated foliage in the back ground, a few trays of fruit, three or four nice collections of Fuchsias, the Dahlias and Hollyhocks as contributed, the whole tastefully arranged, and we think we should have a picture upon which an artist might look with pleasure, and the details of which a florist would examine with no little profit.

But we are getting on ahead. As we have said, the muster of exhibitors was very large, and the number of flowers brought together was something enormous. We think full fifteen hundred blooms were staged. Some of these undoubtedly would have been better absent, but the great majority, more especially in Carnations, were fine well-grown specimens, and fully confirmed the opinion we have long

entertained, that this tribe of flowers can be as perfectly developed in the north as in the south.

We have no disposition to underrate the flowers produced by our friend, Mr. Bayley, or by ourselves, but undoubtedly our success was due in a great measure to the accidental lateness of the season, and we are sure the flowers shown may be equalled by any one who will give ordinary pains to the task.

We had intended to have given an extended notice of the collections, pointing out what we thought were the merits and defects of each, but the breaking-up of those unsuccessful, for the purpose of restaging the flowers singly, made this impossible. We believe this will not be repeated, and we trust it will not, as we can conceive nothing more unsatisfactory to a judge. What would be thought if the prize flowers in single blooms were alone allowed to be seen? Would not that open up ground for assuming incapacity on the part of the judges? Would it not, in fact, take away the *proof* that the judgment was correct? And what difference is there between the comparison of single flowers and the comparison of collections?

In class A, twelve Carnations and twelve Picotees, we were the fortunate competitor. Our best blooms in Carnations were Squire Meynell, Christopher Sly, Premier, Admiral Curzon, Lorenzo, Lord Milton, Black Diamond, Ariel, and Lord Goderich (Gill); the latter a new crimson bizarre, very full of colour and well marked. In Picotees, the best were Mrs. Norman, Amy Robsart (selected as the best Picotee in the whole exhibition), Mrs. Turner (a new light-edged rose seedling of ours), another seedling light rose (No. 39), Mrs. Bayley, Haidee, Venus, Mrs. Barnard, and Prince of Wales. These were not so large as we have frequently shown, but were very refined and pure, points we think far more important than mere size.

Henry Steward, Esq., of York, was second. Mr. Steward's flowers were evidently considerably past

their best, but we noticed in his Carnations good blooms of Sarah Payne, Splendour, Lord Raneliffe, Jenny Lind, Poor Tom, Exit, and Pains; and in his Picotees, Princess Royal, Alfred, Mrs. Headly, Lady Franklin, Green's Queen, Venus, and Countess.

In class B, nine Carnations and nine Picotees, Mr. Bayley, of Derby was first, with flowers which we have rarely seen excelled. The especial blooms in Carnations were Friar Lawrence (a noble flower), Squire Meynell (selected as the best Carnation of the whole exhibition, and one of the finest-marked specimens of this splendid old variety we ever saw), Admiral Curzon, Hartley's seedling R.F., and Christopher Sly. In picotees, Mr. Bayley had fine blooms of Mrs Turner, Mrs. Headly, Haidee, Amy Robsart, Mrs. Bayley, and Mrs. Barnard.

Mr. Robert Hall, of Alkington, was second, with tolerably fair Carnations, but very inferior specimens of Picotees. Picnic, as shown, was very rough, and Delicata, Duchess of Cambridge, and Duchess of Bedford are years behind the best flowers of the present day.

In class C, six Carnations and six Picotees, the first prize was awarded to Mr. John Fisher, of Mickleover, Derby. The flowers were, however, far inferior to what we have seen exhibited by Mr. Fisher, three-fourths of his blooms, as we understood, having been killed with the heat of the day.

Mr. Samuel Brierley, of Middleton, was second. Here again the Picotees were the failing point of the stand. Picotees grow so much more freely than Carnations, and are in every respect so much more easily managed, that we are quite sure our friends need but make a fair trial to obtain the most signal success. Two-thirds of the varieties they appear now to be growing must, however, be thrown away, for no skill or care can produce purity and refinement where purity and refinement never existed.

The single specimens were shown off cards, this class being open to all. The bottles used were

dreadfully unsightly and troublesome, sufficiently so to destroy the effect of the most beautiful flowers florist ever grew, and our friends will excuse us, we are sure when we say they *must* be abandoned. If they can be disposed of to some ginger beer manufacturer, well and good, if not, the sooner they form the basis of a road in the neighbourhood the better. The best bottles we have seen for the exhibition of single specimens, whether of Tulips, Carnations, Pinks, or Picotees, are manufactured by Mr. Joseph Bourne, of Denby, Derbyshire. They are made of glazed stone ware, are durable, cheap (only fourteen shillings per gross), elegant in shape, and come near to realizing the conditions needed in the exhibition of single flowers,—they afford the necessary accommodation, without drawing the eye from the flower exhibited. Four or five pounds will be well expended in the purchase of them by our friends, and by many other societies. If needed, we will gladly send a pattern. As we have said, an enormous number of flowers were produced. Magnet, S.F., and Lovely Ann, R.F., though the latter appeared *en deshabille*, being especially to our taste. Mr. Ainsworth, Black Diamond, the old Duke of Bedford, C.B., and Premier, P.F., were shown well, though the colour of the latter was somewhat faded. Five of the six first prizes in picotees were awarded to Mr. Bayley, for fine bright and clean flowers. But we do not think our friends are right in permitting one variety to win once only in its class. With the limitation to six prizes, we are aware that in many of the classes *very inferior* varieties are not *necessarily* introduced, but still very serious objections do exist to the practice. Subterfuge is largely led up to, as was illustrated on the occasion in question, scarcely a class being free from misnamed specimens. And we cannot but think that the evils which are anticipated from a contrary practice, are grievously exaggerated and illusory. One of the objections entertained, we believe, is the fear that a new flower

could have no chance against the overpowering number of specimens of the best varieties already extant, which alone might be expected to be brought forward under such an arrangement. Another, that variety would be sacrificed, some six or twelve leading flowers alone being likely to obtain the attention of florists. Now we hope we are not dogmatical,—we willingly accord to every friend the same right of enjoying their own opinion which we claim for ourselves, but we cannot help thinking that an unbiassed examination of facts, will prove the untenable nature of these objections. In the first place, a contrary practice has long existed;—in the south, at York, Derby, and elsewhere, and the raisers of new flowers have not complained that such an arrangement was an insuperable difficulty in their way. Nor has it been found so, whether in Tulips, or in Carnations and Picotees, fine new flowers have been pitted against the whole strength of their respective classes, and have won constantly. This was illustrated at Cambridge and Oxford, in the present year. And was it not illustrated at Manchester, where something like one hundred blooms of Venus were staged against three flowers of Alice, yet Alice, grown by single plants only, where Venus is grown by scores of pairs, took, and most deservedly, the post of honour? And was not the selection of Amy Robsart as the premier Picotee another illustration that new flowers have nothing to fear, if they are really good? And if they are indifferent, why we think they should have cause to fear.

With regard to the assumption that variety would be sacrificed, we think a moment's reference to the reports of shows will show that such an objection is unfounded. At Derby, on August 14th, thirty-two prizes to carnations were awarded to twenty-two varieties, ten only being duplicates; and thirty-six prizes in picotees, were awarded to nineteen varieties. Surely this does not exhibit a lack of variety. But we must bring our remarks to a close. In addition

to the Carnations and Picotees, a most splendid exhibition of Hollyhocks and Dahlias was made by Messrs. Bircham, Paul, and Charles Turner,—Mr. Turner's collections being necessarily not for competition, as he was one of the judges. Mr. Turner's Dahlias were pre-eminently beautiful, in fact, we doubt if such a splendid lot of flowers had previously been seen in Manchester. Bessie, a noble yellow, was selected for a first-class certificate; and a similar award was made to Lollipop, a rosy buff, slightly tinged with lilac, quite a novelty in colour. Of the new Hollyhocks, we were especially pleased with Standard, rosy buff, a noble flower, bold, showy, and of extra fine form. Mrs. Parsons, a salmon rose, was first rate in form, and is an extra fine flower. We have notes of many others, to which we shall recur at a future opportunity. A most splendid box of roses was also contributed by the Messrs. Paul.

In the afternoon, a numerous party sat down to an excellent dinner, under the able presidency of John Thorniley, Esq., who promoted alike the flow of soul and goodfellowship. In proposing the toast of "The judges" (Mr. Charles Turner, of Slough; Mr. Merryweather, of York; and Mr. Dunderdale, of Bolton), Mr. Thorniley expressed his conviction, that no awards had ever given more unanimous satisfaction, a sentiment which ensured a prompt approval on all sides; and after an interchange of much kindly feeling, a meeting we shall long remember was brought to a close.

We had intended offering a few remarks on the colour of the boxes used for the collections, and the best mode of getting-up and arranging the flowers for effect, but these we must defer for the present.

Annexed we give the award.

CLASS A.—TWELVE CARNATIONS AND TWELVE PICOTEEES.

1st prize, a silver cup, value five guineas, to Mr. E. S. Dodwell, Derby, for, *Carnations*—Seedling R.F., Squire Meynell, Christopher Sly, Premier, Admiral Curzon, Lorenzo, Lord Milton, William IV. (Wilson), Black Diamond, Squire Trow, Ariel, and Lord Goderich. *Picotees*—Mrs. Norman, Amy Robsart, Mrs. Turner (Dodwell),

Green's Queen, Alfred, Seedling 39 (light rose), Mrs. Bayley, Haidee, Venus, Mrs. Dodwell, Mrs. Barnard, and Prince of Wales.

2nd. H. Steward, Esq., York, with, *Carnations*—Sarah Payne, Splendour, Flora's Garland, Lord Ranccliffe, Admiral Curzon, Jenny Lind, British Hero, Lady Gardener, Poor Tom, Exit, Poins, and Hardman's Splendid. *Picotees*—Princess Royal, Alfred, Lamia, Mrs. Headly, Lady Franklin, Green's Queen, Esther, Lord Nelson, Venus, Countess, Miss Holbeck, and Lady Grenville.

CLASS B.—NINE CARNATIONS AND NINE PICOTEES.

1st prize, a silver cup, value five guineas, to Mr. John Bayley, Derby, with, *Carnations*—Friar Lawrence, Admiral Curzon, Squire Meynell, Premier, Hartley's Seedling, Lord Milton, Black Diamond, Mr. Ainsworth, and Christopher Sly. *Picotees*—Mrs. Norman, Mrs. Turner (Dodwell), Mrs. Headly, Haidee, Prince of Wales, Amy Robsart, Mrs. Bayley, Mrs. Barnard, and Venus.

2nd. Mr. Robert Hall, Alkrington, Middleton, with, *Carnations*—Admiral Curzon, Mr. Ainsworth, Black Diamond, Lovely Ann, Beauty of Woodhouse, Princess Charlotte, Count Pauline, Simpson's Queen Victoria, and Uncle Tom. *Picotees*—Alfred, Picnic, Mrs. Norman, Lord Nelson, Annot Lyle, Delicata, Duchess of Cambridge, Duchess of Bedford, and Mrs. Barnard.

CLASS C—SIX CARNATIONS AND SIX PICOTEES.

1st prize, a silver cup, value five guineas, to Mr. John Fisher, Mickleover, Derby, with, *Carnations*—Squire Meynell, Dodwell, No. 8 (S.F.), Black Diamond, Admiral Curzon, Premier, and Uncle Tom. *Picotees*—Slater's Seedling, Green's Queen, Little Harry Bertram, Amy Robsart, Dodwell's No. 50, and Venus.

2nd. Mr. Samuel Brierly, Middleton, with, *Carnations*—Earl Wilton, Admiral Curzon, Cartwright's Rainbow, Flora's Garland, Lord Ranccliffe, and Firebrand. *Picotees*—Lord Nelson, Delicata, Princess Alice, Picnic, King James, and Alfred.

SINGLE BLOOMS, IN CLASSES.—CARNATIONS.

Scarlet Bizarres.

- 1 Mr. Ainsworth, Mr. R. Hall
- 2 Admiral Curzon, Mr. J. Fisher
- 3 Music, Mr. John Holland
- 4 Sir Robert Peel, Mr. T. Bower
- 5 Leader, Mr. W. Baildon
- 6 Lord Ranccliffe, Mr. R. I. Kaye

Crimson Bizarres.

- 1 Duke of Bedford, Mr. R. I. Kaye
- 2 Black Diamond, ditto
- 3 Warrior, Mr. E. S. Dodwell
- 4 Count Pauline, Mr. W. Chadwick
- 5 Lord Milton, Mr. R. I. Kaye
- 6 Nulli Secundus, Mr. J. Slater

Purple Flakes.

- 1 Premier, Mr. E. S. Dodwell
- 2 Squire Trow, Mr. W. Chadwick
- 3 Beauty of Woodhouse, Mr. Kaye

- 4 Squire Meynell, Mr. J. Bayley
- 5 Lady Peel, Mr. J. Cawthorne
- 6 Poins, Mr. Henry Steward

Scarlet Flakes.

- 1 Magnet, Mr. R. I. Kaye
- 2 Splendour, ditto
- 3 Comet, ditto
- 4 Christopher Sly, Mr. Whitehead
- 5 Ivanhoe, Mr. W. Chadwick
- 6 Firebrand, Mr. J. Fisher

Rose Flakes.

- 1 Lovely Ann, Mr. R. I. Kaye
- 2 Ariel, Mr. I. C. Openshaw
- 3 Constellation, Mr. J. Holland
- 4 Lady of the Manor, Mr. T. Bower
- 5 Maid of Athens, Mr. R. I. Kaye
- 6 Miss Walker, Mr. T. Walmaley

PICOTEES.

Red, Heavy-edge.

- 1 Mrs. Norman, Mr. J. Bayley
- 2 Mrs. Headly, Mr. E. S. Dodwell
- 3 Lady Shadwell, Mr. C. Schofield

- 4 Bellona, Mr. John Holland
- 5 King James, Mr. C. Schofield
- 6 Prince Albert, Mr. E. S. Dodwell

Red, Light-edge.

- 1 Rosetta, Mr. J. Bayley
- 2 Lavinia, Mr. Burman
- 3 Mrs. Kelke, Mr. Bayley
- 4 S. No. 5, Mr. I. C. Openshaw
- 5 Miss Holbeck, Mr. J. Holland
- 6 Duchess of Bedford, Mr. R. Hall

Purple, Heavy-edge.

- 1 Lord Nelson, Mr. T. Bower
- 2 Countess, Mr. C. Schofield
- 3 Duke of Rutland, Mr. Bayley
- 4 Captain Dalgetty, Mr. A. Knutt
- 5 Prince Arthur, Mr. I. Scholefield
- 6 Mrs. Bayley, Mr. John Bayley

Purple, Light-edge.

- 1 Haidee, Mr. John Bayley
- 2 Amy Robsart, Mr. E. S. Dodwell
- 3 Ophelia, Mr. Henry Steward

- 4 Alfred, Mr. Henry Steward
- 5 Bridesmaid, Mr. E. S. Dodwell
- 6 Finis, Mr. T. Bower

Rose, Heavy-edge.

- 1 Alice, Mr. John Bayley
- 2 Venus, Mr. I. Cawthorne
- 3 Helen, Mr. John Holland
- 4 Unexpected, Mr. John Slater
- 5 Queen, Mr. A. Potts
- 6 Princess Royal, Mr. H. Steward

Rose, Light-edge.

- 1 Mrs. Barnard, Mr. John Bayley
- 2 Mrs. Turner, Mr. E. S. Dodwell
- 3 Ariel, Mr. John Slater
- 4 No. 39, Mr. E. S. Dodwell
- 5 Miss Rosa, ditto
- 6 Miss Puxley, Mr. Burman

Best Carnation, selected from the whole exhibition—Squire Meynell, exhibited by Mr. John Bayley.

Best Picotee, selected from the whole exhibition—Amy Robsart, exhibited by Mr. E. S. Dodwell.

MIDLAND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

THE second and last exhibition of this society, for the present season, took place in the Arboretum, Derby, on Tuesday, August 14th, and with your permission, Mr. Conductor, I propose to say a few words on what was more immediately interesting to me, the display of Carnations and Picotees upon that occasion. In so doing, I hope I shall not only pleasantly pass a leisure half-hour, but amuse and inform those who with me are fond of this beautiful tribe of flowers. The past season, though so late, has been on the whole favourable, for, despite the heavy and incessant rains of July and early August, which undoubtedly, in many localities, did much injury, the bloom generally has been very fine. That some localities suffered more than others cannot be doubted, and the bloom was proportionably retarded. Thus, singular as it may seem, it was apparent to me, that whereas on the 14th, the flowers from Derby were scarcely in their prime, those brought from Nottingham were evidently waning,

whilst those from York, brought by Mr. Merryweather, were considerably past their best. As a whole, however, the flowers were very fine, and good as I have been accustomed to see them in the exhibitions of this society, I may, without exaggeration, say I never saw them displayed to greater advantage.

Though, of course, less than half of the display made on the occasion of the "National," last year, the result was more gratifying to me, inasmuch as there was less crowding of the specimens, and a distance sufficient to individualize the respective collections being allowed, the *tout ensemble* was far more satisfactory. And here permit me to say I have not been quite satisfied with your notices of the great events of the year, for whilst I consider that florists should look far more to their exhibitions as a whole, than as concerning individuals, and that therefore the general arrangement should have special attention, you have said not one word upon this point, and we who could not travel to these great gatherings, are left in utter ignorance of the effect produced.* Whenever I visit an exhibition, I always ask myself the question, have we had any "head" here, and if so, what is the result? Well, without intending you any compliment, I was gratified to find that there had been a "head" and an "eye" at work, and I have no doubt that many, with myself, appreciated the contrast and variety afforded by the beautiful Ferns and specimens of *Humea elegans* distributed down the centre of the table†. And you will please, Mr. Conductor, to let this stand as I write it, because I flatter myself that it will do some good; with which proviso I will pass on to a short notice of the flowers. In the first stand, Flora's Garland, Premier, Lorenzo, Christopher Sly, Sarah

* Our correspondent will see that we have touched upon this point, in our notice of the Northern Counties Carnation and Picotee exhibition, and we hope to refer to the subject in a future number.—Ed.

† This arrangement was due to the good taste and direction of our friend, Mr. Bayley.—Ed.

Payne, and Black Diamond were very much to my taste. Young Milton, C.B., has a fine broad petal, very strong colour, and is exceedingly striking in its appearance, but the white is so impure, that I entirely agreed with a remark made by one of the judges, that "the exhibition of such a flower was a reflection upon Mr. Dodwell's generally correct taste." The most satisfactory thing to me was, however, the absence of that intolerable injury to the flower "split petals," which I have had so frequently to comment upon; and as this was due to your following my advice, and taking the exhibition of your flowers into your own hands, I must beg to appropriate some of the credit.

Mr. Hedderley, in the second stand, had one of the finest blooms of Black Diamond I have ever seen. His new scarlet flake, Sportsman, a sport, as I understand, from Admiral Curzon, was exceedingly fine, and is a variety likely to be in the flakes what Curzon is in the bizarre class—A 1. Mr. H. had also fine blooms of Lord Raneliffe, Lord Milton, Squire Meynell, and Firebrand.

In the third stand, Mr. Bayley had the best Friar Lawrence I have ever looked upon. It was undoubtedly *the* Carnation of the exhibition, and was worthily chosen as the premier bloom. Premier, Sarah Payne, and Lorenzo, in the same stand, were also extra fine.

The flowers in the fourth stand, shown by Mr. Eyre, were finely grown, but very indifferently dressed, and worse set up. Bellerophon is so impure in the white that it ought long ago to have been discarded. The brilliancy of the flowers was impaired by age undoubtedly, but a far worse fault to my eye was the splitting of the petals apparent in almost every specimen.

Mr. Parkinson, in the fifth stand, had a well-grown and very even lot of flowers, the only fault, as I thought, being the too liberal use of the tweezers apparent amongst them.

The flowers in the sixth stand, shown by Mr. Fisher, were unequal; whilst the seventh, produced from York, were evidently in the last place from their age.

The Picotees were exceedingly fine, and I must be excused for a little enthusiasm. The first and second collections were the very essence of refinement.

In the first stand, the leading flower, Mrs. Norman, was one of the finest specimens I have ever seen of that splendid variety. This was followed by Mrs. Turner, a light-edged rose, than which I think I never saw a finer bloom. The petal and outline are really perfect, at the same time that it is full, and of large size. Amy Robsart, the third flower, was superb; large, full, without a spot or blemish, and such a white! Lady Grenville was hardly up to the mark, the habit of the petal being indifferent. Nevertheless, it is a very pleasing variety, and I think will be highly esteemed when seen in good character.

The second tier commenced with a fine bloom of a seedling light rose, an exceedingly chaste and refined flower. This was followed by Annot Lyle and Prince of Wales, both light, and extra fine; another bloom of Mrs. Turner, with Venus, pure, though heavily margined, and of great depth; Helen, a medium-edge; Haidee, a small bloom, but exquisitely pure; and one of the sweetest blooms of Countess I have ever seen, to complete the stand.

Mr. Bayley's flowers, in the second stand, were equally pure, the only point against him being that one or two blooms fell off in size. In addition to blooms of Mrs. Turner, Amy Robsart, Mrs. Norman, Prince of Wales, and Helen, already noticed, Mr. B. had a fine specimen of Mrs. Barnard, and another of Rosetta (light red-edge), a flower of capital shape and substance, and as shown, quite free from spots or bars.

The flowers in Mr. Eyre's third stand showed even better growth than his Carnations, but were still worse managed and set up. I hope Mr. Eyre will

for the future take the exhibition of his flowers into his own hands, for it is most lamentable to see well-grown flowers so maltreated. And I think if many other amateur cultivators would follow this advice, we should have much less to regret in our floral exhibitions, and there would be much less for persons of an educated and refined taste to animadvert upon. If amateurs would reflect for a moment, they would see how ridiculous is their practice of confiding flowers on which so much labour and care has been bestowed to the crude ideas of, in nine cases out of ten, an utterly uneducated man, and in whom the delicacy of touch so much needed is seriously impaired, if not destroyed, by the rudeness of his daily avocations. Better far show the flower precisely as cut from the plant than show it with one-half or more of its petals disfigured with ugly splits. The besotted habits of *some* of these men are also intolerable, and such as are calculated to inflict lasting injury upon public exhibitions. Of course there are most honourable exceptions, and I hope many of them, but there were some at Derby to whom these remarks would apply, and whose notions of *meum* and *tuum* were so loose that it required the active surveillance of the officials and police to prevent their removing their neighbour's flowers.

The fine blooms of Mrs. Barnard and Princess Royal, in the fourth stand, pleased me very much. Mr. Hedderley had also good specimens of Little Nell, Lord Nelson, and Mrs. Bayley.; whilst Mr. Parkinson, in his stand, showed Alfred, Mrs. Barnard, Mrs. Norman, Venus, and Haidee in a really superior style.

Mr. Auckland, in the first stand of six, had a superb bloom of Miss Holbeck, one of the best light-edged reds in cultivation, with Venus and Finis very good. In the second, shown by Mr. Bennet, the best flowers were Harry Bertram, Mrs. Barnard, and Venus; whilst in the fourth stand Mr. Walton had the best Alfred in the whole exhibition.

The Carnations and Picotees from Mr. C. Turner's were much past their best, but it was easy to see that Dr. Pitman (heavy red), Alice (heavy rose), Mrs. Pitman (rose), Sultana (heavy rose), Mrs. Dodwell (heavy red), and Mrs. Drake (heavy rose), were extra fine varieties. The latter seems to have the make of Green's Victoria, with the rich quality of Princess Royal, and if as good a grower as reported, will, I think, leave very little to be desired.

NEMO.

Award of the Judges, Thomas Adams, Esq., Derby, and John Edwards, Esq., Holloway, London.

TWELVE CARNATIONS.

1st. Mr. Dodwell, Derby, with Flora's Garland, Premier, Lorenzo, Sarah Payne, Christopher Sly, Admiral Curzon, Young Milton, Premier, Lord Milton, Lorenzo, Christopher Sly, and Black Diamond.

2nd. Mr. Hedderley, of Snenton, with Friar Lawrence, Lord Ranccliffe, Antonio, Lord Ranccliffe, Lord Milton, Squire Mervell, Admiral Curzon, Black Diamond, Sportsman, Lord Milton, Firebrand, and Admiral Curzon.

3rd. Mr. Bayley, Derby, with Premier, Friar Lawrence, Premier, Sarah Payne, Lorenzo, Beauty of Woodhouse, Admiral Curzon, Falconbridge, Black Diamond, Firebrand, Dodwell's No. 3, and Lady Ely.

4th. Mr. Eyre, Snenton, with Admiral Curzon, Bellerophon, King John, Lord Ranccliffe, Flora's Garland, Lord Milton, Lord Ranccliffe, King of Scarlets, Admiral Dundas, Exit, Lord Milton, and Lovely Ann.

5th. Mr. Parkinson, Derby.

6th. Mr. Fisher, Mickleover.

7th. Mr. Merryweather, York.

SIX CARNATIONS.

1st. Mr. Thomas Bennett, Derby, with Beauty of Woodhouse, Lorenzo, Lord Milton, Dodwell's No. 8, Admiral Curzon, and Premier.

2nd. Mr. John Fisher, with Admiral Curzon, Count Pauline, Lorenzo, Squire Meynell, Firebrand, and Seedling.

3rd. Mr. Parkinson, with Lovely Ann, Premier, Lorenzo, Patriot, Captain Franklin, and Admiral Curzon.

TWELVE PICOTEEES.

1st. Mr. Dodwell, with Mrs. Norman, Mrs. Turner, Amy Robsart, Lady Grenville, No. 39, Annet Lyle, Prince of Wales, Mrs. Turner, Venus, Helen, Haidee, and Countess.

2nd. Mr. Bayley, with Mrs. Turner, Prince of Wales, Amy Robsart, Mrs. Turner, Mrs. Norman, Helen, Mrs. Barnard, Amy Robsart, Rosetta, Duke of Rutland, Enchantress, and Venus.

3rd. Mr. Eyre, with Meg Merrilies, Green's Queen Victoria, Capt. Dalgetty, Queen, Lord Nelson, Ophelia, Green, Lord Nelson, Amy Robsart, Mrs. Barnard, Venus, and Mrs. Barnard.

4th. Mr. Hedderley, with Princess Royal, Elizabeth, Mrs. Barnard, Lord Nelson, Gem, Princess Royal, Amy Robsart, Mrs. Norman, Little Nell, Mrs. Norman, Mrs. Bayley, and Gem.

5th. Mr. Parkinson, with Mrs. Barnard, Venus, Alfred, Mrs. Barnard, King of Purples, Mrs. Norman, Gem, Mrs. Norman, Countess, Haidee, Countess, and Grace Darling.

6th. Mr. Fisher.

7th. Mr. Merrywaether.

SIX PICOTEES.

1st. Mr. C. Auckland, Chesterfield, with Venus, Finis, Mrs. Norman, Mrs. Kelke, Lady Grenville, and Miss Holbeck.

2nd. Mr. Bennett, with Lamia, Little Harry Bertram, Mrs. Barnard, Countess, Venus, and Haidee.

3rd. Mr. Parkinson, with Mrs. Barnard, Grace Darling, King of Purples, Alfred, Gem, and Mrs. Norman.

4th. Mr. J. Walton, Derby, with Alfred, Mrs. Barnard, Haidee, Queen Victoria, Duke of Rutland, and Isabella.

SINGLE BLOOMS, IN CLASSES.—CARNATIONS.

Scarlet Bizarres.

- 1 Admiral Curzon, Mr. Dodwell
- 2 Ditto, ditto
- 3 Admiral Curzon, Mr. Hedderley
- 4 Capt. Edwards, Mr. Merrywaether
- 5 Splendid, Mr. Hedderley
- 6 Admiral Curzon, Mr. Dodwell

Crimson Bazarres.

- 1 Lord Milton, Mr. Hedderley
- 2 Black Diamond, ditto
- 3 Lord Goderich, Mr. Dodwell
- 4 Lord Milton, Mr. Hedderley
- 5 Captain Franklin, Mr. Eyre
- 6 Black Diamond, Mr. Dodwell

Pink Bazarres.

- 1 Sarah Payne, Mr. Dodwell
- 2 Sarah Payne, Mr. Bayley

Others not awarded

Purple Flakes.

- 1 Premier, Mr. Bayley

- 2 Premier, Mr. Hedderley
- 3 Dodwell's No. 3, Mr. Bayley
- 4 Squire Meynell, Mr. Parkinson
- 5 Premier, Mr. Bayley
- 6 Ditto, ditto

Scarlet Flakes.

- 1 Queen Victoria, Mr. Bayley
- 2 King of Scarlets, Mr. Eyre
- 3 Sportsman, Mr. Hedderley
- 4 Firebrand, ditto
- 5 Unknown, Mr. Eyre
- 6 King of Scarlets, Mr. Dodwell

Rose Flakes.

- 1 Friar Lawrence, Mr. Bayley
- 2 Lovely Ann, Mr. Eyre
- 3 Ariel, Mr. Bayley
- 4 Aglaia, Mr. Dodwell
- 5 Antonio, Mr. Hedderley
- 6 Lorenzo, Mr. Bayley

PICOTEES.

Heavy Red Edge.

- 1 Mrs. Norman, Mr. Dodwell
- 2 Ditto, ditto
- 3 Mrs. Dodwell, ditto
- 4 Mrs. Norman, Mr. Bayley
- 5 Mrs. Norman, Mr. Parkinson
- 6 James II., Mr. Eyre

Light Red Edge.

- 1 Mrs. Kelke, Mr. Dodwell
- 2 Rosetta, Mr. Bayley
- 3 Mrs. Kelke, Mr. Dodwell
- 4 Gem, Mr. Parkinson
- 5 Seedling (Adams), Mr. Dodwell
- 6 Lavinia, Mr. Parkinson

Heavy Purple Edge.

- 1 Mrs. Bayley, Mr. Eyre
- 2 Ditto, ditto
- 3 Lord Nelson, Mr. Hedderley
- 4 Duke of Devonshire, Mr. Bayley
- 5 Lady H. Moore, Mr. Dodwell
- 6 Lord Nelson, Mr. Bayley

Light Purple Edge.

- 1 Amy Robsart, Mr. Dodwell
- 2 Ditto, ditto
- 3 Ditto, ditto
- 4 Amy Robsart, Mr. Bayley
- 5 Amy Robsart, Mr. Eyre
- 6 Amy Robsart, Mr. Dodwell

Heavy Rose Edge.

- 1 Venus, Mr. Dodwell
- 2 Ditto, ditto
- 3 Princess Royal, Mr. Hedderley
- 4 Venus, Mr. Dodwell
- 5 Ditto, ditto
- 6 Hoyle's Alice, Mr. Eyre

Light Rose Edge.

- 1 No. 39, Mr. Dodwell
- 2 Ditto, ditto
- 3 Ditto, ditto
- 4 Mrs. Barnard, Mr. Hedderley
- 5 Mrs. Barnard, Mr. Parkinson
- 6 Miss Sainsbury, Mr. Dodwell

Best Carnation of any class—Friar Lawrence, Mr. Bayley.

Best Picotee of any class—Amy Robsart, Mr. Dodwell.

Roses.—1st. Mr. Allestree; 2nd. Mr. Bayley; 3rd. Mr. Baker.

PANSIES.—The best collection of twelve, Mr. J. Walton, with Flower of the Day, Juventa, France Cyclo, Sir J. Paxton, Royal Visit, Yellow Climax, Othello, Miss Talbot, Elegant, Queen of Sherwood, and two seedlings.

SIX DAHLIAS.—1st. Mr. J. Walton, with General Faucher, Miss Caroline, Mrs. Ferguson, Beauty of Versailles, Lord Byron, and Pigeon. 2nd and 3rd not awarded, two collections being disqualified.

Mr. Charles Turner, of the Royal Nursery, Slough, sent collections of Carnations and Picotees, Hollyhocks and Dahlias, (twenty-four of each) not for competition, which were of the highest excellence, and elicited the special commendation of the judges. Six blooms of Dahlias (Miss Burdett Coutts, a seedling of Mr. Turner's), received the highest award of the society, a certificate which is granted to flowers of "first-class excellence only." The varieties exhibited were, Hollyhocks—Mrs. Parsons, Miss Parsons, Unique, Maiden's Blush, Ruby, Lemonade, Sir D. Wedderburn, Eugenie, Beauty of Cheshunt, Lizzy, Parson's Seedling (1855), Hon. Mrs. Ashley, Emperor, Topaz, Charles Turner, Pilot, Pourpre de Tyre, Mountain of Snow, Lady Dalrymple, Standard, Metropolitan, Argo, Crimson King, and Little Gem. Dahlias—Miss Burdett Coutts (seedling, six blooms), Sir Richard Whittington, Lady Mary Labouchere, Nigger, Lilac King, Lord Bath, Seedling P.P., Duke of Wellington, Amazon, Laura Lavington, Mr. Seldon, Box, Beauty of Bath, Annie Salter, John Spencer (seedling), Miss Hurst (seedling), Sir F. Bathurst, Butterfly, and Seedling B. Carnations and Picotees—King John, Hope, Jenny Lind, Prince Albert (Puxly), King of Carnations, King John, Mr. Ainsworth, Jenny Lind, King John, Hope, Royal Purple, Seedling, Mrs. Norman, Lady Grenville, Dr. Pitman, Alice, Mrs. Pitman, Sultana, Mrs. Drake, Dr. Pitman, Mrs. Dodwell, Eugenie, Memnon, and Eliza.

NOTES ON THE NEW PANSIES OF 1855.

Alice (Downie & Laird).—Rich gold, with intense solid marone belting, which is broad and regular; eye large and dense; flower large, flat, of fine form and substance. The best in its class.

Aunt Chloe (Douglas).—Mulberry, with a reddish tinge round the eye; flower large, but angular, and useless amongst existing fine varieties.

Alpheus (Dickson & Co.).—Gold, with rich broad plum margin; eye bold and well defined; flower large, of extra substance, and fine form. One of the best six in its class.

Brilliant (Turner).—A bright pretty distinct flower, of medium size. Yellow ground; margin of medium width of ruby crimson. A fine grower.

Beauty (Downie & Laird).—Decidedly the queen of the white-ground class. Ground a creamy white on opening, bleaching perfectly white; belting of rich purple, broad and dense; eye fine; flower large and of fine form. Requires laying flat as it opens.

- Chillington* (Sadler).—Orange, with puce belting. The less said about it the better.
- Duchess of Sutherland* (Turner).—Clear white ground; margin medium width of rich purple; eye very dense; size medium; form fine; substance good. Unfortunately a very bad grower. Much in the way of Dickson's Royal Standard, from which, apparently it is a seedling.
- Duke of Newcastle* (Turner).—Yellow ground; broad ruby purple belting; eye of medium density; flower large, of extra substance and medium form.
- Emily* (Sadler).—Straw ground; belting dark blue, of medium width; flimsy in substance, and therefore useless.
- Excelsior* (Stuart).—Yellow and dark purple. Won't do.
- Fanny Kemble* (Downie & Laird).—One of the finest of what are termed dark selfs. The colour is rich dark blue, with a narrow belt of lighter shade round a bright golden eye. Good size; fine substance; flat and smooth. A fine grower.
- Helen* (Douglas).—Creamy ground, margined with dark puce; flower large and of fine substance, but does not lie flat. A strong grower.
- Hamden* (Oswald).—A flower much resembling Hale's Monarch, on which it is an acknowledged improvement, being a better grower and larger flower.
- J. B. Gough* (Downie & Laird).—The finest dark self out. Perfect in form, large, and of extra substance. A strong grower.
- Lord John Russell* (Turner).—Golden yellow ground, broadly margined with rich velvety crimson; eye dense; flower large, of fine form, and flat.
- Lord Palmerston* (Turner).—Gold and rich crimson; large, smooth, of fine form and substance, but a sickly grower.
- Lucretia* (Stuart).—Dark blue, with a light shade round the eye. Won't do.
- Lord Raglan* (Turner).—A yellow-ground flower, of unusually large size, but there being two shades in the ground colour, it is useless as a show variety.
- Mr. Muntz* (Oswald).—Too much like Ajax, (Oswald) to be kept as a distinct variety.
- Meteora* (Stuart).—Rich purple, with a darker shade round the eye. Good form.
- Memnon* (Turner).—Rich glossy mulberry self, of good substance. Form medium, the bottom petal being much too small to continue the outline of the side and top petals.
- Nonpareil* (Dickson & Co.).—White ground, broadly belted with rich dark purple; fine solid eye; flower large, stout, and smooth.
- Royal Albert* (Turner).—A beautifully shaded dark variety. A flower universally and deservedly admired. A good grower.
- Rev. H. Gossett* (Turner).—A yellow-ground flower, of average properties, but a bad grower, and with existing good varieties in this class, not worth contending for.

Satisfaction (Turner).—Clear golden yellow ground; margin rich crimson; eye solid; good size; form medium; substance good. This flower is defective through the marginal colour being broken on the top of the side petals, more particularly in hot weather.

Sulphurea Splendens (Fleming).—Sulphur, speckled with blue. Large and rough. Never was worth naming.

Sarah (Sadler).—White and purple. Pretty, but too thin.

William Cobbett (Sadler).—Rich chrome yellow, broadly margined with glossy dark marone. Large sienna eye; flower of good form and fine substance. Unfortunately the bottom petal will not lie flat, thereby deteriorating its value as a show flower. A moderate grower.

The foregoing having bloomed under my care, I give their merits as I found them; probably some of them may bloom finer under different management. Your readers have, however, my unbiassed opinion of the flowers as seen. I annex the names of thirty-six of the best pansies in cultivation, according to my experience in growing every good variety known.

TWELVE YELLOW-GROUND VARIETIES.

Alice (Downie & Laird)
Ajax (Oswald)
Lord John Russell (Turner)
Alpheus (Dickson & Co.)
Emperor (Hales)
Hamden (Oswald)
Duke of Newcastle (Turner)
Monarch (Hale)
Rev. H. Gossett (Turner)
Lord Palmerston (Turner)
Father Gavazzi (Holland)
Sir John Cathcart (Turner)

TWELVE WHITE-GROUND VARIETIES.

Beauty (Downie & Laird)
Nonpareil (Dickson)
Duchess of Sutherland (Turner)
Lord Raglan (Campbell)
Royal Standard (Dickson & Co.)
Minerva (Dickson & Co.)
Marion (Dickson & Co.)

Earl Mansfield (Dickson & Co.)
Royal Visit (Dickson & Co.)
Charles Cowan (M'Nab)
Argo (Galbraith)
Marchioness of Bath (Wheeler)

SIX DARK SELFS.

J. B. Gough, (Downie & Laird)
Duke of Sutherland (Tunley)
Royal Albert (Turner)
Medora (Downie & Laird)
Fanny Kemble (Downie & Laird)
Memnon (Turner)

THREE YELLOW SELFS.

Sovereign (Dickson & Co.)
Wonderful (Hooper)
Golden Eagle (Dickson & Co.)

THREE WHITE SELFS.

Royal White (Thomson)
Mrs. H. B. Douglas (Downie
& Laird)
Countess of Strathmore
(Hampden)

The varieties are inserted as they stand progressively in quality.

ROBERT R. OSWALD.

Vauxhall, Birmingham, Sept. 12, 1855.

CURRENT EVENTS.

Not the least of late "current events," and one truly worth recording, was the meeting of the National Floricultural Society, on the 9th of August, when, as one of the learned and reverend visitors remarked of a roomful of specimens, not one inferior subject was to be found; and yet there were ninety-nine collections exhibited, including Ericas, Fuchsias, Ferns, Phloxes, Roses, Carnations, Picotees, Hollyhocks, Dahlias, Scarlet Geraniums, Verbenas, and Balsams, in all, exceeding one thousand specimens of seedling and named varieties; the latter to test the merits of the former. The censors were Messrs. W. Holmes, Baker, A. Smith, Parsons, W. Paul, Pope, Cook, Robinson, J. Cutbush, W. Barnes, A. Young, Hamp, Lidgard, Long, and Edwards; the same being formed into sections of three or five, as best qualified to determine the merits of particular subjects. If by these means an approach to accuracy be not attainable, then must the National certificates go for nought; but while the society can command the services of the *best men*, and obtain flowers from the *best growers*, there can be little cause for fear.

Single trusses of Verbenas were produced in superlative excellence. Three prizes were awarded, there being five competitors; and when it is stated that the renowned C. Turner, of the Royal Nursery, Slough, was one of those *unsuccessful*, florists will at least assume that the flowers were good, and so in truth they were. The best twelve were by Mr. Judd, gardener to C. P. Lochner, Esq., the specimens being absolute perfection. The sorts were Lord Raglan, Empress, Mrs. D. Tyssen, Reine d'Amazon, Hector, St. Margaret, Queen, Mary Ann, Peter Dick, Vicomtesse de Belleville, and Brilliante de Vaise. Closely following, was the collection of Mr. Weatherill, gardener to D. M'Neill, Esq., who produced Vicomtesse de Belleville, Brilliante de Vaise, Old

Tom, Grandis, Eugenie, Mary, Cedo Nulli, Mrs. Woodroffe, Purple Defiance, Sidonie, Caliban, and Novelty. Mr. G. Smith, than whom, as a raiser of Verbenas, none more successful exists, was third. His flowers were Urania, Lord Raglan, Hebe, Wonderful, Sobraon, Caliban, St. Margaret, Souvenir, and two seedlings.

Twelve seedling Verbenas were exhibited. Of these, Blue Bonnet (Turner) had a certificate for its bedding properties. Old Tom, Cedo Nulli, Eva, Titus, and Minnie possessed much merit.

Hollyhocks, for so early a date, were right well produced, both in spikes and cut blooms. Of the former, Mr. Turner produced Criterion, Unique, and Emily, and was first. Mr. Bircham, Mr. Parsons, Mr. Chater, and Mr. Roake, also contributed spikes. In cut blooms, Mr. Roake, of Clewer, near Windsor, was first, and Mr. Turner second. The principal sorts were Unique, Sulphur Queen, Comet, Mrs. and Miss Ashley, Beauty of Cheshunt, Julia Roake, Pouppe de Tyre, White Globe, Sir D. Wedderburn improved, Mrs. Parsons, Little Gem, Standard, Lizzie, Brennus, Lemonade, Eugenie, Argo, &c. The reproduction of so many N.F.S. flowers speaks volumes of previous doings.

Of seedlings, a first-class certificate was given to Standard (Turner), a salmon-coloured variety. Certificate of merit to Purple Perfection (Bircham), being of good form, size, and substance, but wanting a trifle more width of guard petal. Bride (Parsons), creamy blush, but not in good condition, is a promising sort, and may be shown with better success. Argo, a primrose, of good form, but of medium substance, also had a certificate.

Not the least important was the fine display of Carnations and Picotees, four collections of each being staged for competition, together with large collections of spare blooms, by Mr. Keynes and Mr. Turner. The first prizes were awarded to Mr. Turner, in both classes; second prizes to Mr. Keynes;

and third to Messrs. Mitchell & Co., Brighton. Mr. R. Parker contributed the fourth collection.

Of seedling Picotees, Angelina (Lochner), rose, light-edge, was rewarded with a certificate, for breadth of petal, desirability of colour, goodness of white and form: it might be smoother. Dr. Pitman (Turner), heavy red-edge, had a first-class certificate, for purity of white, solidity of colour, absence of bar, and general brightness and attractiveness. Mrs. Lochner (Turner), heavy-red, a certificate, for fine form, solidity of colour, and smoothness of edge; there was just observable an occasional small stripe or bar. Sultana (Turner) was not up to the desired perfection; nor was Chancellor (Turner.)

The Yellow Picotees from Mr. Turner received a second prize, not being in first-rate condition. Such a discretion should always be vested with censors, so as not to fritter away the funds of a society to other than meritorious productions.

Twelve collections of Dahlias competed, and Turner was again defeated. Mr. Robinson was first, with Rachel Rawlings, Duke of Wellington, Eclipse (a bad bloom), Essex Triumph, Louisa Glenney, and Sir F. Bathurst. Mr. C. Turner second, with Beauty of Slough, Miss B. Coutts, Lilac King, Mr. Seldon, Robert Bruce, and Sir F. Bathurst. Mr. J. Keynes third, with Duchess of Kent, Lord Raglan, Rachel Rawlings, Sir J. Franklin, Sir F. Bathurst, and a seedling.

The fancy blooms were really good. Mr. Turner was first, with Butterfly, Topsy, Laura Lavington, Triomphe de Rubra, Pigeon, and Comet. Mr. Keynes second. This stand might have displaced the former with little injustice. The varieties were Mrs. Spary, Admiration, Baron Alderson, Butterfly, Comet, and Empereur de Maroc. Mr. Robinson third, with Motley, Miss Matthews, Mrs. Herbert, Laura Lavington, Butterfly, and Pigeon.

Although so early, seedlings were well produced. Of these, the censors selected Lord Raglan (Keynes),

buff and orange, and Miss B. Coutts (Turner), salmon and bronze, in the way of old Nicholas Nickleby. To both certificates of merit (not first-class) were awarded. The former was included in my notice of the Derby "event," where the flower was much and deservedly admired. With a little higher centre, it would be perfection.

Roses, for prizes, by Messrs. Paul, gave evidence of the preceding storms: a second prize was awarded.

Fuchsias were well done by C. P. Lochner, Esq., and merited the first prize, the three varieties being *Psyche*, *Telegraph*, and *Nil desperandum*.

A label of commendation was granted to *Fuchsia Conqueror* (G. Smith), an improvement on *Clapton Hero*, an old bold sort. The whole of the white corolla varieties were staged in plants; real novelties, and their first production in public.

Scarlet variegated foliage *Geranium Alma* (Turner) received a well-merited certificate. This will doubtless make a good bedding kind. Upwards of a dozen plants were produced.

Phlox Nina, (Salter) a well-formed flower, also received a certificate.

Ericas of sterling merit were produced by the Messrs. E. G. Henderson & Son, Wellington-road. Two fine autumnal-flowering sorts were selected for first-class certificates,—the one, *Obbata rubra*, a gem, being a red variety of the *true Obbata*, quite as bold, with good colour; the other a free-flowering salmon-coloured variety, named *Hibbertia Hendersonii*. These were first-rate, and should be sought by all lovers of Cape Heaths. Mr. J. Edwards staged some very clean and well-flowered specimens, which, when more advanced, will obtain a place amongst the best collections.

Some Ferns were shown by Mr. J. Edwards, the secretary, including the lace-like *Cheilanthes lندیgera*; *Darea diversifolia*, producing fronds as distinct and very similar to the foliage of the Carrot and Parsnep, whence its specific name; *Davallia bullata*,

the new garden fern, as figured in the *Gardeners' Chronicle*, of August 11th; the Tree Fern, *Dicksonia antarctica*; *Nephrodium decompositum*; *Platycerium alcicorne*; *Nephrolepis exaltatum*; the creeping or climbing *Lygodium scandens*; the bold and graceful *Blechnum Braziliensis*; the curiously-structured *Cænopteris cicutaria*, whose fronds are shown, as it seems, on the wrong side; the dark green *Platyloma rotundifolia*, with the more rigid grower, *Doryopteris pedata*. These, done in a true florist's style, and nicely grouped, were most interesting, and gave both relief and additional effect to the mass of colour seen in the Dahlias, Hollyhocks, Carnations, &c. As adjuncts, doubtless Ferns and plants with variegated foliage are most desirable, but I do not subscribe to the doctrine that they can ever supersede *flower* shows, nor is it fit they should.

NEW PLANTS.

EREMURUS SPECTABILIS.—A very fine showy herbaceous hardy plant, with the habit and appearance of an Asphodel. The flowering scape is two or three feet high, and terminated by a fine compact pyramidal raceme of yellow flowers, the effect of which is greatly heightened by long rich orange brown stamens. It is said to be found wild in Siberia, the Caucasus, Koordistan, the Crimea, and even in Scinde, where the late Dr. Stocks appears to have met with it. No doubt it is a plant of the most easy cultivation. At Kew, it flowers in June.

LEPTODACTYLON CALIFORNICUM.—This beautiful plant was shown by Messrs. Veitch, at Chiswick, last June. It is one of the most charming of Mr. William Lobb's, who found it on the moun-

tains of St. Barnardino, in California, and who describes it as an evergreen shrub, from two to four feet high. The wood is hard, and the branches closely covered with bright green, stiff, finely-cut leaves, and loaded with rose-coloured flowers, as large as those of our common Phlox. It may be compared not inaptly to a bush of Irish Furze, loaded with the blossoms of Phlox maculata, only pale and delicate rose colour, instead of deep purple. We presume the species will be a hardy greenhouse or frame plant, requiring more air and dryness than heat, in winter. We may add that it has all the appearance of being well suited for summer bedding-out.

MEYENIA ERECTA.—We saw this plant exhibited at the Crystal Palace, by Messrs. Rollisson, of Tooting, on June 2nd, and we thought it most beautiful and desirable. It is said to be of easy culture, growing very freely in an intermediate house or stove. It is of shrubby habit, and admirably adapted for purposes of exhibition. The blossoms are produced in the greatest profusion, from the axils of the leaves, and are shaped somewhat after the style of a large Achimenes flower, but with a tube considerably longer,—about two inches in length. The flowers are a bluish purple, much superior to Thunbergia chrysops, with a distinct yellow eye or throat.

If you have reason to believe you have raised something new and good, get some disinterested sound opinion as soon as you can. We are all too partial to our own works to see the bad points.

Study well the properties of flowers and plants, and act upon them in all your judgments, whether passed upon your own or other people's subjects.

QUERIES AND ANSWERS.

Could some of your numerous readers state, in the forthcoming numbers of the *Midland Florist*, what success the new Sweetwilliams have had this season (I don't mean the success of the sender-out of them) in gaining the favourable opinion of the floral public? They were last year advertised in magniloquent terms, and in case they have in the growers' hands generally proved themselves worthy of the description given of them, I will defer stating what is thought of them here.

Glasgow.

A SUBSCRIBER.

A correspondent, in a notice of the Moira fete, says, "the Sweetwilliams exhibited as first-class varieties, from the south of England, were not so good as some seedlings staged by the Rev. I. M. Gresley." They have not come under our own notice.—Ed.

DIOSCOREA BATATAS.—I. H.—It would be premature to pass a decisive opinion at present; but from what we see of it, we expect it will prove an extensive *take-in*, and nothing more.

I. H.—See the notes on new pansies of the past season. The best flower we have seen of this year is a yellow ground, Turner's Perfection. It has the rich distinct colours of Schofield's Fearless, with a remarkably bold eye. By far the best yellow self we have seen is Fisher's Mrs. Dodwell, noticed in the present number. It is a decided advance in a class which needs improvement.

HINTS FOR THE MONTH.

FLORISTS' FLOWERS.

AURICULAS.—These will still be growing, so that they must be supplied moderately with water. However, they should now be gradually prepared for their winter rest, and towards the end of the month, it will be well to remove them into their winter quarters; for these a western exposure is best suited. See that the sashes do not need repair, and have the stages and plants kept clean, occasionally stirring the surface of the pots.

CALCEOLARIAS.—Young plants, sufficiently rooted, pot off; also any seedlings which may require it, using a light porous soil, and a good drainage to the pots.

CARNATIONS AND PICOTEEES.—Plants which are well rooted should be potted off into the small pots, this month, removing

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greenfly and dead foliage, during the operation. Do not let the soil used be in a wet state. From experience, we should say, pot choice varieties singly; it takes up more room in the frames certainly, but adds much to the strength of the plants, which will be valued in the spring. We have found that they winter best when so treated,

CINERARIAS.—If more stock of esteemed varieties is still desired, let the propagation be attended to immediately. Keep all the stock clear of insects and mildew. Beware of an unexpected frost, but give air at all times, as far as consistent with safety. Water somewhat more sparingly. Continue to shift such plants as need it.

EPACRIS.—These should no longer be left exposed. If worms are troublesome in the pots, a watering with lime water may be applied with advantage. Tie out any branches which are crowded.

ERICAS.—These also should now be housed, but give air as freely as possible. See to mildew. Apply water less frequently than hitherto.

FUCHSIAS.—Those in flower will merely require ordinary attention. Those for early flowering should be kept as dormant as possible.

HOLLYHOCKS.—Those plants rooted early and planted out to strengthen, should now be taken up, potted, and placed in a cold frame. Seed—collect only from those that possess first-rate properties, both in bloom and spike. Cuttings of new and scarce varieties may still be put in, and if placed in a mild bottom heat, will soon emit roots. Those produced about the crown of the root will be found the best.

PANSIES.—Plant out any which remain into the flowering beds. Fill up vacancies in the beds, which should be kept free from weeds or any rubbish which at this season is apt to be blown in amongst the plants. Stir the surface of the soil occasionally. *Pansies in Pots.*—Those intending to grow these should be at this time prepared with a fine young stock, in beds, if they anticipate success in their culture. Towards the end of the month, they should be potted into the small pots in which they are to be wintered. The size of the plants will be a guide as to the size of the pot required. As was said in the case of Carnations, let the soil be in suitable condition,—not too wet. Keep sufficient soil also for the blooming pots, it does not answer well to give a change of soil when shifting from the wintering to the blooming pots.

PELARGONIUMS.—Those late cut back will this month have broken sufficiently to be repotted. Keep the earlier plants clear of greenfly. Apply water with judgment, and do not in any way over-excite growth.

PINKS.—It is somewhat late for planting out, and it will be better to winter young stock now in pots. To those in the

beds, the directions above, for pansies, are applicable. *Pinks in Pots*.—Keep moderately dry. To ensure this, they should have the benefit of sashes, when necessary.

CALENDAR OF OPERATIONS, FOR OCTOBER.

[From *Rendle's Price Current and Garden Directory*.]

THIS is a sort of harvesting period with the gardener; roots have to be secured for winter use, and many matters of a like conservative character attended to. Of course everybody will look well to their Potatoes, in these awkward times, not only their stores, but those intended for seed in the ensuing year. Towards the end, Beets, Scorzonera, Salsafy, Carrots, &c. must be got together, if possible, for there is no trusting average seasons, after this. Many young things will want planting out this month; amongst the rest, a stock of Cabbages from the August sowing, to meet the demand of the coming spring. Lettuces also for spring work, choosing, of course, warm slopes or borders for their new locality. Another important point, a good lot of full-sized Endive should be placed in frames, or under some cover, in the end of the month, to provide winter salads.

CABBAGES.—Continue to plant out as directed for last month. Plant twice as thickly as required, and in early spring draw out every alternate plant as Coleworts.

CAULIFLOWER.—Prick out, if not already done, always taking care to have a plentiful supply, to guard against the casualties of winter. They will be found very useful.

CELERY.—Earth up as it grows, a little at a time.

KIDNEY BEANS.—Their bearing may be much prolonged by being arched over temporarily with sticks and covered with mats, by night.

ANGELICA.—Sow, if not already done; it is highly aromatic, and used in a candied state in confectionary.

CHIVES.—Replant. This is a useful little vegetable.

NASTURTIUM.—Collect berries for pickling. They are a good substitute for capers.

CARDOONS.—Earth-up. In doing this, tie the haybands round the stems, drawing their leaves together, so that no soil gets to the heart. Draw the earth up as for Celery.

ENDIVE.—Keep clear from weeds and continue to blanch. A good plan is to invert garden pots over them, stopping the hole, so as to exclude all light. These, however, should be removed daily, for about an hour, to give air and prevent damp

FLORAL EXHIBITIONS.

BLACKBURN FLORAL AND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

In Park School, on June 7.

TULIPS.

Best Stand of Six Varieties.—Mr. R. Haworth, with Charles X., San Joe, Beauty, Violet Brun, Lady Crewe, Alexander du Roi.

- Feathered Bizarres.*
- 1 Charles X., R. Haworth
 - 2 Waterloo, J. Foulds
 - 3 Paganini, J. Houlker
 - 4 Trafalgar, A. Catterall

- Flamed Bizarres.*
- 1 Abercromby, Fairbrother
 - 2 Lustre, R. Haworth
 - 3 Truth, ditto
 - 4 Paganini, ditto

- Feathered Byblæmens.*
- 1 Bienfait, Fairbrother
 - 2 Beauty, ditto
 - 3 La Belle Narene, ditto
 - 4 Duc de Bordeaux, ditto

- Flamed Byblæmens.*
- 1 Bienfait, J. Houlker
 - 2 Lancashire Hero, T. Chippendale
 - 3 Unknown, J. Jennings
 - 4 Violet Pourpre, T. Chippendale

- Feathered Roses.*
- 1 La Belle Nanette T. Chippendale
 - 2 Lady Crewe, R. Haworth
 - 3 Count, ditto
 - 4 Walworth, ditto

- Flamed Roses.*
- 1 Unique, Fairbrother
 - 2 Aglaia, ditto
 - 3 La Vandicken, T. Chippendale
 - 4 Lady Crewe, ditto

- Bizarre Breeders.*
- 1 Duke of Kent, R. Haworth
 - 2 Charbonnier, Fairbrother

- Byblæmen Breeders.*
- 1 Sancta Sophia, Wilkinson
 - 2 Roland, J. Foulds

- Rose Breeders*
- 1 Kate Connor, J. Foulds
 - 2 Queen Philippa, ditto

- Selfs.*
- 1 White Perfection, R. Haworth
 - 2 Min d'Or, J. Houlker

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF YORK FLORISTS

Held their Annual Tulip Show, at Monkman and Aldrich's Hotel, Colliergate, on Monday, June the 4th. 1855. The Judges were Mr. Wood and Mr. Summers. The following were the awards:—

- Feathered Roses.*
- 1 Comte de Vergennes, Bainbridge & Hewison
 - 2 Ditto, ditto
 - 3 Ditto, ditto
 - 4 Comte de Vergennes, Barnett
 - 5 Comte de Vergennes, Bainbridge & Hewison

- Dark Feathered Bizarres.*
- 1 Charles X., Bainbridge & Hewison
 - 2 Waterloo, Douglas
 - 3 Trebizond, Merryweather
 - 4 Ditto, ditto
 - 5 Waterloo, Bell

- Feathered Byblæmens*
- 1 Maid of Orleans, Merryweather
 - 2 Unknown, Wilson
 - 3 Baguet, Parker
 - 4 Baguet, Merryweather
 - 5 Ditto, ditto

- Red Feathered Bizarres.*
- 1 Scotia, Merryweather
 - 2 Ditto, ditto
 - 3 King, Pearson
 - 4 Scotia, Merryweather
 - 5 Goud Beurs, Parker

- Flamed Roses.*
- 1 Triomphe Royale, Wilson
 - 2 Triomphe Royale, Merryweather
 - 3 Aglaia, ditto
 - 4 Triomphe Royale, ditto
 - 5 Aglaia, ditto

- Dark Flamed Bizarres.*
- 1 Polyphemus, Parker
 - 2 Ditto, ditto
 - 3 Duke of Devonshire, Burnett
 - 4 Dutch Catafalque, Bell
 - 5 Parker's Bizarre, ditto

Flamed Bybloemens.

- 1 Princess Royal, Merryweather
- 2 Van Amburgh, ditto
- 3 Ditto, ditto
- 4 Princess Royal, ditto
- 5 Van Amburgh, ditto

Red Flamed Bizarres.

- 1 Pilot, Parker
- 2 Pilot, Merryweather
- 3 Ditto, ditto
- 4 Ditto, ditto
- 5 Ditto, ditto

Selfs.

- 1 Cotherstone, Merryweather
- 2 Cotherstone, Bainbridge & Hewison
- 3 Ditto, ditto
- 4 Cotherstone, Merryweather
- 5 Ditto, ditto

Rose Breeders.

- 1 Catherine, Merryweather
- 2 Ditto, ditto
- 3 Ditto, ditto
- 4 Seedling, Burnett
- 5 Catherine, Merryweather

Bybloemen Breeders.

- 1 Orleans, Merryweather
- 2 Van Amburgh, Bainbridge & Hewison
- 3 Ditto, ditto
- 4 Orleans, Merryweather
- 5 Ditto, ditto

Bizarre Breeders.

- 1 Pilot, Merryweather
- 2 Ditto, ditto
- 3 Ditto, ditto
- 4 Holmes's King, ditto
- 5 Ditto, ditto

MIDLAND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The first exhibition of this Society, for this season, was held in the Arboretum Derby, on Tuesday, June 5th. Late as this day was, when compared with preceding seasons, it was full early for the Tulips, and in fact for the whole of the productions. The flowers consequently wanted growth, but those brought forward left little to be desired on the score of quality and fine marking. Two novelties, in names, will be found in the list of the awards. The first, Sir Charles Napier, feathered bizarre, exhibited by Mr. Wroughton, is stated to be a seedling, and supposing there be no error in the matter, it was doubtless raised from Royal Sovereign, which it so exactly follows, that it was held by the majority of florists present to be the same thing. The second, Sir John Franklin, flamed bybloemen, exhibited by Mr. Houghton, is, we believe, a *flamed Britannia*. This variety is very similar to a fine Queen Charlotte but in our opinion, superior to that famous old variety. We have seen this break in extra fine style, in the collection of our friend, Mr. Adams.

The bloom of Herione, shown by Mr. Adams, to which the first place in its class was awarded, was one of the finest specimens of colour and marking we have ever looked upon. Maid of Orleans, first in the feathered bybloemen class, was an exquisite flower, and the same may be said of the specimens which were second and third. Sir Joseph Paxton, first in the flamed bizarre class, is a noble variety, darker in colour, but with the rich beaming and style of Pilot. The Pilots were particularly good. Duchess of Sutherland, flamed bybloemen, was rather angular in its shape, but extra fine in marking.

Napoleon, with its fine scarlet feather, was very attractive, and Kate Connor, though small, was shown in very pretty style as a flame.

The judges were the Rev. S. Creswell, of Radford vicarage, Notts., and Mr. John Spencer, Nottingham.

The following was the award:—

TULIPS.

Six Dissimilar Blooms.—1. Mr. Thomas Storer, with Herpine, Triomphe Royale, Maid of Orleans, Princess Royal, Sovereign, Pilot. 2. Mr. Thomas Houghton, with Herione, Aglaia, Baguet, Sarah Ann, Sovereign, unknown. 3. Mr. James Parkins, with Heroine, Aglaia, Lady Denman, Venus, Sovereign, Pilot. 4. Mr. W. Lymbery, with Rosa Bianca, Aglaia, Lady Douro, Queen Charlotte, Sovereign, Pilot. 5. Mr. John Howe, with Heroine, Clark's Clio, Baguet, Princess Royal, Sovereign, Pilot.

Feathered Bizarres.

- 1 Sir Charles Napier, Wroughton
- 2 Sovereign, Allestree
- 3 Sovereign, Parkinson
- 4 Ditto, ditto
- 5 Sovereign, Spencer
- 6 Sovereign, Allestree

Flamed Bizarres.

- 1 Sir J. Paxton, Lymbery
- 2 Pilot, Astle
- 3 Pilot, Parkinson
- 4 Pilot, Wroughton
- 5 Pilot, Forman
- 6 Pilot, Allestree

Feathered Byblæmens.

- 1 Maid of Orleans, Parkinson
- 2 Maid of Orleans, Adams
- 3 Maid of Orleans, Parkinson
- 4 Maid of Orleans, C. Spencer
- 5 Mayflower, Lymbery
- 6 Lord Denman, Parkins

Flamed Byblæmens.

- 1 Nepaulese Prince, Lymbery
- 2 Sir John Franklin, Houghton
- 3 Nepaulese Prince, Lymbery
- 4 Duchess of Sutherland, Worthington
- 5 Sarah Ann, Houghton
- 6 Princess Royal, Allestree

Feathered Roses.

- 1 Heroine, Adams
- 2 Heroine, Storer
- 3 Napoleon, Allestree
- 4 Aglaia, Wroughton
- 5 Heroine, Houghton
- 6 Heroine, Spencer

Flamed Roses.

- 1 Triomphe Royale, Spencer
- 2 Ditto, ditto
- 3 Aglaia, Lymbery

- 4 Aglaia, Allestree
- 5 Triomphe Royale, Forman
- 6 Kate Connor, Lymbery

Bizarre Breeders.

- 1 Pilot, T. Storer
- 2 Hamilton, J. Lowe
- 3 Pilot, T. Storer
- 4 Hamilton, ditto
- 5 Truth, Gibbons
- 6 Pilot, ditto

Byblæmen Breeders.

- 1 Britannia, T. Storer
- 2 Chellaston Beauty, J. Swindell
- 3 Princess Royal, J. Gibbons
- 4 Chellaston Beauty, J. Swindell
- 5 Maid of Orleans, J. Gibbons
- 6 Sarah Ann, ditto

Rose Breeders.

- 1 Lord Derby, Lymbery
- 2 Village Maid, J. Gibbons
- 3 Catherine, J. Lowe
- 4 Seedling, J. Gibbons
- 5 Seedling, Lymbery
- 6 Chellaston Beauty, J. Swindell

PANSIES.

Collections of Twelve.—1. Mr. J. Slater, with Emperor, Royal Visit, Adela, Cossack Blanche, Duke of Perth, Sir P. Sidney, Queen of England, Sir J. Cathcart, France Cycole, Androcles, and Monarch. 2. Mr. J. Riley, with Royal Visit, Fearless, Blanche, Duke of Perth, Sir P. Sidney, Miss Stewart, Adela, Sir J. Cathcart, France Cycole, Duches of Sutherland, Hero, and Miss Talbot. 3. Mr. F. Bennett, with Fearless, Royal Visit, Sir P. Sidney, Blanche, Duches of Sutherland, France Cycole, Monarch, Cossack, Duke of Sutherland, Queen of England, Mr. Beck, and Adela.

Pansies in Pots.—1. Mr. Riley, with France Cycole, Marchioness of Bath, Duke of Perth, Adela, Blanche, and Fearless. 2. Mr. F. Bennett, with Adela, Duches of Rutland, Hero, Blanche, Masterpiece, and Duke of Sutherland. 3. Mr. George Small.

OLDHAM FLORAL AND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

At the Town Hall, Wednesday, June 6,

TULIPS.

Feathered Bizarres.

- 1 Masterpiece, S. Barlow
- 2 Charles X., ditto
- 3 Charlatan, J. Slater
- 4 Magnum Bonum, S. Barlow
- 5 Apelles, J. Cock
- 6 Waterloo, R. Bourghall
- 7 Catafalque Superieure, S. Barlow
- 8 Surpass Catafalque, J. Smithies

Flamed Bizarres.

- 1 San Joe, S. Barlow
- 2 Charles X., J. Cock
- 3 Pilot, S. Barlow
- 4 Shakspere, ditto
- 5 Albion, ditto
- 6 Charbonnier, J. Taylor
- 7 Duke of Devonshire, S. Barlow
- 8 Waterloo, J. Lee, Esq.

Feathered Byblæmens.

- 1 Bienfait, S. Brierley

- 2 Violet Amiable, S. Barlow
- 3 Beauty, S. Brierley
- 4 Lewold, S. Barlow
- 5 Britannia, ditto
- 6 Lancashire Hero, J. Taylor
- 7 Duc de Bourdeaux, R. Bourghall
- 8 La Belle Narene, S. Barlow

Flamed Byblæmens.

- 1 Bacchus, S. Barlow
- 2 Bienfait, ditto
- 3 Lady Seymour, J. Slater
- 4 Beauty, J. Cock
- 5 Lancashire Hero, J. Taylor
- 6 Baguet, S. Barlow
- 7 Diana Bruin, J. Heap
- 8 Duc de Bordeaux, J. Slater

Feathered Roses.

- 1 Lady Crewe, J. Taylor
- 2 Comte de Vergennes, J. Cock
- 3 Heroine, S. Barlow

- 4 Rosa Blanca, S. Barlow
- 5 Andromeda, J. Smithies
- 6 Lady Lilford, J. Heap
- 7 Aglaia, S. Barlow
- 8 Duchess of Newcastle, ditto
- Flamed Roses.*
- 1 Unique, R. Bourghall

- 2 La Vandicken, S. Barlow
- 3 Aglaia, ditto
- 4 Vesta, J. Heap
- 5 Celestial, S. Barlow
- 6 Lady Crewe, J. Lee, Esq.
- 7 Duchess of Newcastle, S. Barlow
- 8 Lady Lilford, R. Bourghall

STOCKPORT TULIP SHOW.

The annual meeting of the largest exhibition of cottage growers in England, within a circuit of two miles of any town, was held on Saturday, June 9th, at the house of Mr. Stubbs, Pack Horse Inn, Millgate, on which occasion the front of the premises presented a characteristic feature. The words, "Tulip Show," were formed out of coloured daisies, surrounded by tulip leaves, very judiciously and effectively arranged. This was surmounted by another specimen, the full and symmetrical figure of a fine pack horse being constructed out of buttercups, relieved by tulip leaves, the ground work being green fir sprigs. Both of these illustrations were exceedingly well executed, and reflected credit upon the industry and good taste of Mr. Stubbs. The prizes were adjudged by Mr. Uriah Chadwick, Dukinfield; Mr. Wilcock, Leigh, Lancashire; and Mr. James Faulkner, Kersal Moor. There were many well grown specimens, their points being fully developed, and their colours richly thrown up. The number of tulips on the stage could not be less than seven hundred, including the largest collection of breeders, remarkable for their purity, ever exhibited in the town. The following is the award:—

Premium Prizes.—Feathered, Charles X., John Turner; flamed, San Joe, John Clayton.

Maiden Prizes.—1. Charles X., Samuel Walker. 2. Comte, Isaac Moores. 3. Charles X., John Foulds

Feathered Bizarres.

- 1 Apelles, T. Handford
- 2 Charles X., W. Lambert
- 3 Magnum Bonum, W. Smith
- 4 Surpass Cat., T. Handford
- 5 San Joe, T. Bullock
- 6 Lord Lilford, D. Woolley
- 7 Rising Sun, T. Handford
- 8 Waterloo, G. Greaves
- 9 Unknown, W. Lambert

Flamed Bizarres.

- 1 Duke of Lancaster, W. Lambert
- 2 San Joe, J. Bowden
- 3 Polyphemus, D. Woolley
- 4 Pilot, ditto
- 5 Lustre, J. Moores
- 6 Devonshire, W. Smith
- 7 Charles X., S. Brown
- 8 Albion, J. Clayton
- 9 Unknown, B. Shottin

Feathered Byblæmens.

- 1 Bienfait, J. Morris
- 2 Bienfait, D. Woolley
- 3 Beauty, ditto
- 4 Baguet, J. Moores
- 5 La Belle Narene, B. Shottin
- 6 Washington, T. Green
- 7 Duc de Bordeaux, G. Greaves
- 8 Grotius, B. Shottin
- 9 Britannia, J. Barrett

Flamed Byblæmens.

- 1 Alexander Magnus, D. Woolley
- 2 Pyramid d'Egypt, ditto
- 3 Lord Vernon, T. Green
- 4 Waller's Violet, J. Barrett
- 5 La Belle Narene, J. Clayton
- 6 Van Amburgh, J. Morris

- 7 Lord Denman, J. Clayton
- 8 Gibbons, J. Morris
- 9 Bienfait, T. Handford

Feathered Roses.

- 1 Comte, J. Moores
- 2 Lady Crewe, J. Morris
- 3 Heroine, G. Greaves
- 4 Hero of the Nile, S. Brown
- 5 Comte, J. Moores
- 6 Unknown, T. Bullock
- 7 Walworth, W. Smith
- 8 Dolittle, J. Moores
- 9 Newcastle, J. Morris

Flamed Roses.

- 1 Unique, D. Woolley
- 2 Unique, T. Foulds
- 3 Aglaia, J. Bakewell
- 4 Walworth, J. Turner
- 5 La Vandicken, J. Clayton
- 6 Triomphe Royale, B. Shottin
- 7 Crewe, ditto
- 8 Vesta, J. Bowden
- 9 Ponceau Brilliant, S. H. Cheetham

Bizarre Breeders

- 1 Charbonnier, D. Woolley
- 2 Seedling, W. Lambert
- 3 Kate, T. Foulds
- 4 Seedling, T. Green
- 5 Polyphemus, J. Moores
- 6 Unknown, J. Clayton
- 7 Seedling, W. Lambert
- 8 Unknown, J. Bowden

Byblæmen Breeders.

- 1 Maid of Orleans, D. Woolley
- 2 Willison's Queen, J. Morris
- 3 Maid of Athens, T. Foulds
- 4 Godelt Parfait, G. Greaves

- 5 Van Amburgh, D. Woolley
 - 6 Unknown, ditto
 - 7 Lord Vernon, T. Foulds
 - 8 Clegg's No. 5, W. Lambert
- Rose Breeders.*
- 1 Lord Derby, D. Woolley
 - 2 Village Maid, J. Moores
 - 3 Catherine, W. Lambert

- 4 Juliet, D. Woolley
 - 5 Lady Lilford, J. Turner
 - 6 Arlette, J. Morris
 - 7 Anastasia, ditto
 - 8 Portia, J. Barrett
- Selfs.*
- 1 Min d'Or, D. Woolley
 - 2 White Flag, W. Lambert

[We are glad to see the breeders are commended as "remarkable for their purity;" but will our friends permit us to ask, if *purity* is desirable in the breeder flower, is it not equally to be desired in the rectified specimen? And do the awards support this assumption?—Ed.]

TULIP SHOW.

At Mr. T. Smith's, General Wolf, Blackburn, June 9th, 1855.

Maiden Prize.—Catafalque Superieure, W. Haworth.

Feathered Bizarres.

- 1 Charles X., R. Haworth
- 2 Waterloo, W. Broughton
- 3 Catafalque, ditto
- 4 Fratagar, ditto
- 5 Rodrigo, R. Haworth
- 6 Truth, ditto
- 7 Unknown, W. Broughton

Flamed Bizarres.

- 1 Duke of Devonshire, W. Broughton
- 2 San Joe, R. Haworth
- 3 Duke of Lancaster, H. Ashworth
- 4 Incomparable, ditto
- 5 Polyphemus, R. Haworth
- 6 Lustre, W. Broughton
- 7 Truth, ditto

Feathered Byblæmens.

- 1 Beauty, R. Haworth
- 2 Bienfait, H. Ashworth
- 3 Baguet, ditto
- 4 Incomparable, H. Earnshaw
- 5 Duc de Bordeaux, Fairbrother
- 6 Unknown, W. Broughton
- 7 La Belle Narene, Fairbrother

Flamed Byblæmens.

- 1 Violet Brun, R. Haworth
- 2 Bienfait, W. Broughton
- 3 Siam, Fairbrother
- 4 Unknown, H. Ashworth
- 5 Splendid, Fairbrother

- 6 La Belle Narene, Fairbrother
- 7 Unknown, H. Ashworth

Feathered Roses.

- 1 La Belle Nanette, Fairbrother
- 2 Lady Crewe, Hadfield
- 3 Lady Stanley, W. Broughton
- 4 Walworth, R. Haworth
- 5 Count, ditto
- 6 Bronte, H. Ashworth
- 7 Hero of the Nile, R. Haworth

Flamed Roses.

- 1 Unique, H. Ashworth
- 2 Vesta, W. Broughton
- 3 Lady Catherine Gordon, R. Haworth
- 4 Unknown, W. Broughton
- 5 Alexander du Roi, R. Haworth
- 6 Aglaia, Fairbrother
- 7 Unknown, W. Broughton

Bizarre Breeders.

- 1 Duke of Kent, R. Haworth
- 2 Charbonnier, Fairbrother

Byblæmen Breeders.

- 1 Sancta Sophia, W. Broughton
- 2 Seedling, Fairbrother

Rose Breeders.

- 1 Kate Connor, R. Haworth
- 2 Arlette, ditto

Selfs.

- 1 Min d'Or, H. Ashworth
- 2 Perfection, Fairbrother

Never tie up Lettuce or Endive, or earth up Celery, except when perfectly dry. They are sure to spoil if you do.

Never crowd your plants, in or out of doors. Half the plants under glass are spoiled by this alone, and three parts of the nursery stock is ugly from the same cause.

ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF A TULIP CABINET,

IN REPLY TO MR. JOHN CLIFF.

BY MR. WILLIAM HARRISON, SECRETARY TO THE FELTON UNION
OF FLORISTS AND HORTICULTURISTS.

THE possession of a Tulip cabinet is of so much importance to the young Tulip collector, that I beg to offer you the following description of one for seventy rows, although I had considered the subject exhausted in my two articles, which appeared in your pages for 1852, written in objection to my friend, Mr. Willison's advocacy of "the grouping system" of planting Tulips. As, however, your correspondent must not have seen them, I beg to repeat those parts which are necessary for his information; in doing which, I shall be as brief as possible, so as not to trespass on your valuable space.

Every young amateur who resolves to collect a Tulip bed, should at once order a cabinet, sufficient to contain a bed of seventy rows. This should consist of seven drawers, each drawer containing ten rows across the bed, with seven bulbs or varieties in each row. This, he will at once see, requires the drawer to be divided into seventy squares or compartments, so as to hold seventy roots, and this he will perceive will plant the first ten rows in his bed. Each compartment should be about three inches square, and two inches in depth, as, when they are less, they will scarcely hold a good large bizarre bulb, without its projecting above the top of the drawer, and thus being liable to get crushed; and at planting time, the trouble and difficulty of getting small

offsets out of the corners of very small compartments is also very great, and puts off much time. He will thus see that each drawer will be about thirty inches in length, and twenty-one inches in breadth; and, allowing a little space between the drawers, for the free admission of fresh air from the back, which should be perforated with plenty of holes, large enough to admit the air, but too small to permit the intrusion of *mice*, he will find that the size of his cabinet, for seventy rows, will be something like the following, viz.:—

Total length, nearly 36 inches.

„ breadth, „ 22 or 24 inches.

„ height, „ 30 inches.

Total height, with a large drawer
at the bottom, for floral publications, catalogues, &c. } 42 inches.

The above are the dimensions of my own cabinet, and I soon found it small enough. I consider a large drawer or two at the bottom to be a great improvement, as it keeps catalogues, floral publications, and everything connected with “the fancy,” in a place by themselves. Let not your correspondent think for a moment that a cabinet for seventy rows is too extensive to begin with. He will find a charm in the arrangement of every new row that he adds to his collection; and if his stock thrives, he will soon find that his cabinet is getting fast filled. Besides, he will have the great advantage of seeing and knowing at a glance where he has his most valued roots, and this, if nothing else than in the saving of time, will soon repay him for the little expense to which he has subjected himself. He must get his divisions between the compartments in each drawer broad enough to admit the name of each variety to be pasted on to its square, so that when he pulls out the drawer, he will be able to read over the arrangement of the first ten rows of his bed with nearly as much enjoyment as if he had his flowers in full bloom before him. After his bulbs have been dried,

and the loose dirty skins carefully cleaned off, they will "many a time and oft," be subjected to his examination, during the summer months when they are out of the ground. Even if only tumbled round with the point of a pencil, he will find that the examination will give him pleasure; for the victories at an exhibition, and the pleasure of seeing them in bloom, gorgeous as they are, are not the only joys attendant on Tulip growing. I have always felt that the charms of improved arrangement, the pleasure of being able to examine one's stock at a glance, the associations connected with this flower or that, the date of breaking some favourite variety, with the victories it has gained since, the friend from whom some other variety was obtained, who is now perhaps "where the weary are at rest," form such a chain of pleasing associations, and a recreation *so innocent*, as I believe no other human hobby can equal, and are sufficient almost to induce one to parody the poet, and exclaim,

" My tulip bed
Was dukedom large enough."

Having attempted to describe a Tulip cabinet, and the pleasures and advantages to be derived from its possession, let me now say a few words on the arrangement of the roots for planting. I have always been opposed to the grouping or massing system, and would advise your correspondent to begin and arrange his bed, however small, in the regular systematic manner of rose, byblœmen, bizarre, rose, byblœmen, bizarre, rose, &c., throughout his whole collection. Let him begin, first, with a rose; second, a byblœmen; third, a bizarre; fourth, a rose; fifth, a byblœmen; sixth, a bizarre; and seventh, a rose; and this completes his first row across the bed. In the second row, he must go on thus,—first, a byblœmen; second, a bizarre; third, a rose; fourth, a byblœmen; fifth, a bizarre; sixth, a rose; and seventh, a byblœmen. This completes his second

row. In the third row, he goes on, first, a bizarre; second, a rose; third, a byblœmen; fourth, a bizarre; fifth, a rose; sixth, a byblœmen; seventh, a bizarre. This completes his third row, and so he must go on to the end. But perhaps the following copy of four rows, from a cabinet, may illustrate the plan of arrangement to him better than any lengthened description:—

FIRST ROW.

- 1 Rose, Triomphe Royale
- 2 Byb., Chellaston Beauty
- 3 Biz., Charles X.
- 4 Rose, Clark's Clío
- 5 Byb., Maid of Orleans
- 6 Biz., Polyphemus
- 7 Rose, Triomphe Royale

THIRD ROW.

- 1 Biz., Solon
- 2 Rose, Amadis
- 3 Byb., George Glenny
- 4 Biz., Dixon's Duke of Devonshire
- 5 Rose, Aglaia
- 6 Byb., Addison
- 7 Biz., Solon

SECOND ROW.

- 1 Byb., Bienfait
- 2 Biz., Strong's Benjamin
- 3 Rose, Heroine
- 4 Byb., Youell's Light Baguet
- 5 Biz., Tyso's Polydora
- 6 Rose, Triomphe Royale
- 7 Byb., Bienfait

FOURTH ROW.

- 1 Rose, Clark's Portia
- 2 Byb., Black Diamond
- 3 Biz., Royal Sovereign
- 4 Rose, Rosa Blanca
- 5 Byb., Glenny's Duke of Northumberland
- 6 Biz., Polyphemus
- 7 Rose, Triomphe Royale

And so on, till the stock is all arranged.

The second plan of arrangement, or what Mr. Glenny called "the herring-bone" fashion, is, perhaps, better, but it is much more expensive for a young beginner, as it requires so many duplicate roots; but if your correspondent likes to try it, I beg to refer him to page 151 of the *Midland Florist*, for 1852, where he will find it amply described, as I am afraid I am trespassing on your space.

A new note-book for each season is absolutely necessary; and the following copy of a single row, with my abbreviated method of putting down the properties, may perhaps not be out of place here. Let your correspondent catalogue his rows on the left-hand pages only, and leave the right-hand ones

open for remarks, and he may then take down his notes in the following manner:—

NINETEENTH ROW.	REMARKS.
1 Clark's Portia	p.b., g.c., fine f.
2 David	p.b., g.c., fine black f.
3 Tyso's Polydora	p.b., g.c., grand h. f.
4 Aglaia	p.b., g.c., fine l. f. and fl.
5 George Glenny	p.b., g.c., fine h. fl.
6 Gibbons's Pilot	p.b., very shabby fl.
7 Triomphe Royale	p.b., g.c., h. fl.

The abbreviations used here are p.b., for pure bottom; g.c., for good cup; f., for feather; fl., for flame; h., for heavy; l., for light; p.s., for pure stamens; and s.s., for stained stamens. By using these, your correspondent may, in very small space, register the character of every bulb in his possession, which is the only satisfactory way of keeping an account of a Tulip collection.

I have trespassed longer on your space than I had intended, but I trust the fact that the subject is one of interest to every young Tulip collector, will be a sufficient excuse.

West Thirston, Felton, October 5th, 1855.

THE PINK.

At the commencement of the last year's volume of the *Midland Florist*, there is an article by Alpha, on the very charming flower, the pink, in which he attributes its slow progress to the diversified tastes existing in different districts. He remarks, the Tulip, Carnation and Picotee, and the Dahlia, have their properties universally recognized; and why, he inquires, should the Pink remain an isolated subject?

Sincerely desiring to find a solution of this question, I have carefully read over the several articles which have appeared in the present work, in the expectation of finding something by which the standard properties of the Pink might be defined,—and such as might be adopted by all parties. In this, however, I am disappointed; for, as Alpha truly observed, judging from the several communications, “a diversified taste” exists in an extreme degree; and instead of finding unison of opinion,

there is only variance, and incongruity throughout. For instance, whilst one correspondent dislikes a flower having petals with a "white band," another would discard it without one; a third insists upon "a clearly-defined moon;" a fourth considers a flower worthless, unless the lacing and "eye" correspond in colour; and a fifth condemns it totally, unless it possesses a certain number of petals. The shape of the petal, whether it should be cupped or flat, has also elicited a variety of opinions.

In an attempt to remove in some degree this "diversity of opinion," I purpose briefly to notice the above points.

I do not imagine that a flower whose petals possess a "white margin," or, as our northern friends term it, a "feather edge," if all its other properties are good, should be disqualified; for, to my taste, this addition improves the appearance of the flower, as it the more readily displays the habit of the bloom, and the smoothness of its petal; whilst a plated flower, in some degree, has the contrary effect, and hides a serrated edge. And it does not follow, because the Pinks hitherto originated in the north have been destitute of this quality, that those which may be hereafter raised should not possess it.

The term "moon" is a provincialism, designating the colourless part of the petal, which intervenes between the lacing and "eye," which is made to appear very conspicuous by the reflexed manner in which the petals are arranged for exhibition. The southern florists do not adopt this mode, but take the Carnation and Picotee as their model, so that the term "clearly defined moon" cannot properly be applied to flowers treated by them.

The next point requiring observation is one upon which our northern friends have always insisted, and is a very important feature in the properties of the Pink. I allude to the requirement that the lacing and eye shall be of corresponding colour. It must be admitted that the northern varieties possess this feature, whilst it cannot be denied that a considerable number of those raised in the south are destitute of it; I should not, however, allow this to be a disqualifying point, all other properties being good,

The next point is size. The days are gone by in which "buttons" can be tolerated, and we now require something more than colour and marking, and "moons" and "eyes." I cannot for a moment entertain the idea that a standard for size should be that adopted by our northern friends; on the other hand, it is pleasing to observe the improvement the southern growers have effected in this point, for size is now no longer attained by a mass of confused petals, very aptly termed "hay-cocks," but the majority of the new flowers approximate in form to the Carnation and Picotee; and, instead of the centres being filled with a number of small "strap-shaped" petals, they are composed of broad well formed ones, which regularly imbricate. For myself, I cannot adopt a flower as a standard,

whatever its other properties may be, whose size is scarcely larger than a half-crown piece.

As to the "shape of petal," it is now admitted by all cultivators of the Pink, that a large and wide petal is more to be prized than a narrow one, and the smoother the edge the more highly is it esteemed. I need, therefore, say nothing on this point. As an illustration of what, in my opinion, is a flower containing more points towards perfection than any other, I name Norman's "Colchester Cardinal," decidedly the very best extant, and a variety that will give satisfaction to every cultivator of this charming class of flowers.

Having thus noticed these several points, allow me to inquire, can nothing be done to dispossess each cultivator of his favourite crotchets and ideas, and lead to that unison of taste and opinion so eminently to be desired?

I find it has been already suggested by the pink growers of Sheffield that a national pink show should be held, and that they would aid in so laudable and needful an object; and, as a plan for the management, in the absence of any other, they proposed the adoption of the arrangements of the Towns Carnation and Picotee Show of 1852.

Another well known cultivator of the Pink, Mr. George Hudson, of Kingston, also proposes that a national show should be held; and as it is evident that a diversity of opinions as to the properties of a perfect Pink exists, and as it appears to me that the only practical mode of settling this long-vexed question will be by an open or national exhibition, the next point to consider is where it can be held, and when? Further, it should be resolved whether the exhibition should be held on the principle of the towns meeting, at Derby, in 1852, or as a national meeting, where each competitor produces his own flowers.

On these points I presume to beg the prompt response of my brother florists and admirers of this lovely flower, feeling sure that the pages of the *Midland Florist* will be readily thrown open to their remarks and suggestions.

OMEGA.

MORE FLORAL ENIGMAS.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,—My dear brother positively assures me that he has had the pleasure of shaking hands with you, at one of the recent exhibitions of the greatly admired and favourite flowers, the Carnation and Picotee. He was called from home on urgent

and important business, and on his return, he made a half-way resting-place where the exhibition was held; and here, he informed me, that in addition to your company he was introduced to, and made the acquaintance of, a *bevy of fair ladies*, who, he says, were the admiration of all beholders; and he leads me to understand that it is not improbable some of them may be his guests during the ensuing summer.

I do assure you this announcement of my brother's quite amazed me, more particularly as he is not so partial to the company of us "women-folk" as are the generality of our opposite sex;—but his other good qualities superabundantly balance this failing.

I have succeeded in drawing from him,—only by small degrees, however, for very taciturn is my brother, excepting when his old gossip calls, and then he is as chatty as a magpie,—the names of the ladies alluded to, but they are all strangers to me. This shows the necessity there is for going from home to form new acquaintances, yet I am so very antiquated that I love *old* friends in preference to new ones; however, I am perfectly satisfied with the respectability of the ladies to whom you have introduced my brother, and your name alone removes any objection of mine, and it will afford me much gratification to receive them at our small cottage,—small, truly, but cozy and healthy.

My dear brother has more than once hinted that if I were to ask you who the ladies are, you would satisfy me—and you must know, dear Mr. Editor, that I am nearly dying of curiosity to hear something of those who have so captivated him. Pray, therefore, do inform me, like a good kind editor, and obliging florist,—all florists, you know, are obliging, or should be so, particularly to the fair sex. I understand their names are Mrs. Bayley, Mrs. Norman, Mrs. Turner, Mrs. Pitman, Mrs. Drake, Mrs. Kelke, Mrs. Dodwell, and Mrs. Barnard. My brother says he remembers the last-named lady when she was *Miss Desborough*, and before she entered upon the matrimonial state;

and he intimates that at that time she was thought *lightly* of only, as she was rather *flighty*, but she is now, I understand, a very *steady* matron. In addition to the last-named ladies, all of whom are married, he speaks of the following as single:—Sarah Payne—here my brother added, with a sigh, “she is a sweet thing!” Amy Robsart, Annot Lyle, Miss Holbeck, Miss Alice Hoyle, and Miss Sainsbury; and in addition to these, my brother says he was quite captivated with a “Lovely Ann,” but who she is I cannot learn, only that in her holiday attire she was a charming *rose*! And all that I could draw out of him respecting the above is, that “they dress well,” and “are pure and unspotted in their characters.” Amy Robsart appears to have been the belle of the company, and as such obtained many admirers.

You know, Mr. Editor, it is a lady's prerogative to ask questions, and you may be assured that I am as inquisitive as any lady can possibly be. I own, therefore, that I quite pestered my poor brother with inquiries, and as he is at times such a dear man that I can coax anything out of him, at breakfast the other morning, finding him in this humour, I resumed the inquiry as to the ladies he met with, and who further he saw, besides yourself. Briskly looking up, he replied that he “never spent a more pleasant day, or in more agreeable company, and in particular he was very much struck with Christopher Sly.” Now, who can this Christopher Sly be? I wonder if he is related to the “Slys of Burton Heath?” You do not know, Mr. Editor, do you? If not, I will request my brother to inquire, the next time he goes to Burton; for I am very anxious to know, because, he says, “it will not be at all wonderful if the dog does not create a sensation—he is such a fine fellow.” My brother also spoke with much admiration of a certain *Friar Lawrence*, who he says was a very jovial personage, and “*rosy mithal*!” The appearance of such a character at so public a place, must have created quite a sensation; and I have no doubt

he did, for I understand he obtained the most conspicuous place in the exhibition,—my brother says the chief, or seat of honour. He, however, was not more honoured than was the Colchester Cardinal, last year. My brother's old friend asserts that this high dignitary is very splendid, when he is fully dressed up; yet I must be allowed to say, I have always understood there is but *one* cardinal in England, viz., his Eminence Cardinal Wiseman. I am, however, digressing from my subject. Amongst other celebrated things that my brother saw and speaks of, were several splendid specimens of the Black Diamond. I am sure he need not travel far from home to see these, for we have them in perfection at Swannington, and Moira is a notorious place for them, and though some prefer those from Derbyshire, for my own part, my choice is in favour of my own neighbourhood, because I think they are infinitely more cleanly and economical.

My brother saw several lords also—I think he named the Lords Rancliffe, Milton, Young Milton, Nelson, and Goderich, as well as admirals and captains, and ladies of title; but this does not so much excite my surprise, as I have heard my brother frequently remark that the Midland Horticultural Society is *nobly* supported, and distinguished for its efficient officers and exhibitors.

I beg to thank you, in conclusion, for the very flattering way in which you noticed my last communication, and I hope the present may be equally interesting.

MARY M'E.

CURRENT EVENTS.

THESE must for the time prove rather of a retrospective character, and it may be that the readers of the *Midland Florist* may set them down as too mono-

tonous, from the fact that my memoranda is principally of one flower; but then that flower has a long season, and has, moreover, been more than usually prolific,—so prolific, indeed, that it is not too much to assert that I have seen some thousand blooms staged for competition since I had the pleasure to pen the events given in your last number. That flower is the Dahlia, and say what we will to the contrary, no flower of the present time is so popular, nor half so much exhibited. Moreover, current events, it must be remembered, are given, not as an exposition of theoretical notions, but as a register of facts, the which it has been my study to adhere to since their commencement. The range I shall have to take will be somewhat extensive, and the localities visited widely separated, as will be apparent by the following:—National, August 23; Cremorne, August 30; Hereford, Sept. 4; National, Sept. 6; Newbury, Sept. 7; Brighton, Sept. 12; Oxford, Sept. 13; North London, Sept. 18; National, Sept. 20; and finally, National, October, 4. Indulgent readers will bear with me, after such a recital of visited spots, and spare me, if I enlarge at length on these events.

At the first National, August 23, there were staged twenty-five seedling Dahlias, each from three to twelve blooms; twenty Verbenas, either in plants or trusses of threes; some dozen Hollyhocks, mostly in spikes; with Antirrhinums, Balsams, Petunias, Phloxes, &c. To avoid needless repetition, I shall offer a summary, rather than give each exhibition in detail, for, to speak out, many of the flowers have been so industriously shown, that, go where we might, certain varieties were sure to be detected. To the exhibition held at the Royal Cremorne Gardens, the palm of excellence must be awarded, although that at Brighton may fairly claim to have surpassed it in many subjects, and both may be set down as being of the most happy and satisfactory character to all concerned. The leading Dahlias

are, Bessie, a good yellow, and Yellow Beauty, another yellow, which, were the two flowers blended, would be absolute perfection. Both must be had. Mrs. Wheeler, crimson, approaching to scarlet, of extra fine build; Lollipop, a mixture of salmon and buff, remarkable for its constancy; Reginald, pale yellow, with slight tip of purple; Archbishop of Canterbury, dark purple, of fair pretensions; Miss B. Coutts, previously noticed; and Enchantress, a fancy flower, much in the way of Gloire de Kain. These should be obtained by all. Orange Perfection improved as the season advanced, and may be set down as really good; so with Shaded Model, a flower of better form than General Faucher. Tyrian Prince, shaded dark, also improved as the season progressed. Duchess of Wellington is a flower of average build, and of a new colour, similar to the well-known Rose Souvenir de la Malmaison. Lord Palmerston must be set down as a bold scarlet crimson, very bold, and will prove a flower for cultivation when smaller varieties fail to give average specimens. There are others it may be well to enumerate, such as Mogul, Aladdin, Silver Queen, Miss Newton, Robert Hogg, Mrs. Sarah Boyce, Empress of Yellows, Magnet, Aurantia, Inimitable, Sambo, Lord Raglan, Mrs. Spary, Argo, General Simpson, Corsair, Eclipse, and Mr. Howard, all more or less claiming consideration, as possessing marked improvements on existing sorts. Further in advance in the season, Grand Sultan (dark marone), Sparkler, Sebastopol, Captain Ingram, Miss Eyres (a nice flower, plum and violet shaded), Alfred Salter, Chameleon (yellow, with a disposition to tip purple), Counsellor Keating, and Colonel Windham, were offered for notice, names enough, in all conscience, to satisfy the most determined collector of new Dahlias.

Verbenas have been produced in the most charming character; Mr. Weatherill, Mr. Turner, Mr. Todman, and Mr. G. Smith have each been fortunate in adding *first-class novelty*, as well as *first-class quality*.

Without minutely detailing each, it must suffice that I offer a list, the whole of which may be safely added to the most carefully selected stock in cultivation; say Novelty, Eugenie, Purple Defiance, Cedo Nulli, Grandis, King of Roses (very exquisite), Unanimity, Dandy, John Edwards, Criterion (of model form), Purple Perfection, and General Simpson. John Edwards, the raiser (G. Smith) says is the best Verbena he has ever originated, and with this opinion I cordially agree. Let not Verbena growers be alarmed at the array of names. I say take courage, and fail not to hold every one when the season shall have come round. Old flowers will be at a discount, or my eyes have been deceiving me.

In Hollyhocks, Paul's Blushing Bride, Queen Eleanor, Rosy Morn, Brilliant, Golden Drop, Lizzie Improved, Memnon, and Primrose Perfection (Roake), may be safely added, and to good account; as may Leonie (Roake), Miss Ashley, Miss Nightingale, Mrs. Oakes, Purple Perfection, Standard, and Perfection. In these flowers, ample advance will be detected.

In Bedding Geraniums, Mr. Kinghorn has been so fortunate as to raise an unmistakeable improvement on Commander-in-Chief. He calls it, not inappropriately, General Pelissier.

Petunia Hermione has been exhibiting literally here, there, and everywhere, and gaining golden opinions for its owner, Mr. G. Smith, of Tollington Nursery, Hornsey-road.

The Scotch-raised Phlox, Countess of Home, fully sustains its reputation as portrayed in a late number of *Turner's Florist*. It has proved first-class, even under the trying circumstances of a pent-up journey from Messrs. Downie & Laird, of Edinburgh. Good things will pay for a journey; bad ones had better remain at home. Mr. Salter, of the Versailles Nursery, Hammersmith, has produced several first-rate exhibitions of Phloxes. His Warrior is desirable for its novelty.

EXTRACTS, HINTS, AND RECOLLECTIONS.

THE PHILOSOPHY OF FLORISTS' FLOWERS,

[Reprinted from the *Florist* for 1849.]

No. VII.

To conclude the subject of form or shape, we come, lastly, to treat of it as subservient to an ulterior purpose, to set off to greater advantage some other means of beauty. This is a large rather than a difficult branch, requiring more a copious induction of particulars than the announcing and establishment of any fresh general principles. Whatever can be correctly said upon the subject will be found to depend on some of those principles that have been laid down before. I shall not, therefore, here attempt any such extended induction, but confine my observations within as narrow a space as will suffice to explain the mode of their application.

With respect to the general forms of flowers, different shapes are best suited to different purposes. The cup-edged, or rose-leaved petal, elegant as it is, is unsuited to show the colours of the Polyanthus, the Auricula, or the disked Cineraria, though it enhances the beauty of the Carnation, the Picotee, and the Pink. The flat surface will not effectively display the markings of such as are equally painted on both surfaces, as the Tulip; nor will the hollow cup, so admired in that flower, suffice to bring the single Poppy or Peony, with all their glowing colours, into favour with the fastidious. Regard must be had to the *mode* of colour, before a decision can be pronounced on the form most available for its display. The most perfect is, when the flower is calculated to produce both a general effect as a whole, and likewise to attract observation to its several parts. In this respect, I imagine, the first place must be con-

ceded, without a rival, to the Tulip, and the second, probably, to the Orchids. Nor does this prejudice the popular claim for the Rose, a claim in which I cordially join, to be the queen of flowers. The Rose has too many and too solid attractions to fear giving other flowers their due meed of superiority in particular points over itself. But the Rose is essentially a self-coloured flower, though there are some departures from this rule, and, for the most part, with little improvement. And it is rather an encomium upon, than a disparagement of its merits, that, having to contend at a disadvantage, it wins for itself the highest place in our esteem. The Auricula, the Pelargonium, and perhaps the Carnation, present more of a picture,* and have more properties or points that conduce to excellence than the Rose.

Were there any flower, the colours of which are disposed with as minute a reference to mutual position as those of a picture, no doubt a perfectly flat surface would be best. And although making no such pretensions to accuracy, the Auricula is impatient of any other form, because the relative proportions of its primary subdivisions, which proportions are its principal characteristic, are injured or lost without it. The Polyanthus and the particoloured varieties of Cineraria would suffer in the same way, but in a less degree. The colours of flowers, however, are beautiful by a higher than the painter's rule, and when in their utmost regularity, disdain the servile trammels of man's imitative art. Themselves and their purposes are alike original, and not by copy; and display their Maker's praise as much in what, to a superficial observer, would appear their imperfections, as in what are called their highest perfections. And, therefore, the forms on which their beauties can be inscribed with effect are not so limited.

I have before observed that, theoretically, a globe would be in itself the most perfect form, considered

* The Pansy does this; but I have no wish to expose a truth to ridicule by appearing to compare the Pansy to the Rose.

simply as a figure; and the same will apply to a considerable extent as a surface for the reflection of colour. Yet if a globe were formed in any other manner than by the convex edges of many petals, as in some of the Ranunculaceæ, or the *Amaranthus*, it would not answer our ideas of a flower, the essence of which is expansion or opening out, which, indeed, is the meaning of the word "petal." It would, therefore, be out of the question for single flowers; and, in fact, the casual arching over of its petals into the resemblance of a globe, which takes place in some long-cupped varieties of the Tulip, is a great dissight.

The section of a globe, as in a well-shaped Tulip, offers the next greatest amount of advantages; and one of the charms of that magnificent flower is owing to its mathematically perfect form. And in the recent controversy about its exact proportions, I have no doubt of all eventually agreeing in the opinion of those who assert that it ought to be *half* a globe; because, if it be less, in the same degree that it falls short of a hemisphere does it lose the globular, which is its higher character, and approach the idea of a plane surface, with cupped edges—a form actually assumed by some Tulips, in the middle of a hot day, after they have been some time in flower; and if it be greater, in the same degree that it exceeds a hemisphere does it fall short of its just expansion, both in appearance and effect.* For the half of a hollow globe, of the size of a Tulip, presents a sufficiently level surface for the most delicate floral markings to be perceived; and in the case of this flower, which is painted on each surface, enables both the inner and the outer to be seen at the same time. Hence it is the most effective form of any.

Another way in which an adventitious magnitude is produced is, when the lines both of form and

* I have been much encouraged, since this letter was prepared, by seeing, in the *Gardeners' Chronicle* of some years back, a dissertation upon the points of a good Tulip, in which most of my conclusions are forestalled, though the reasons for them, as might be expected, are not given.

colour are parallel, instead of crossing each other, and both run outwards (that is, towards infinity) without a stop. This is well illustrated in the singular difference of effect produced by the three florists' species of *Dianthus*,—the Carnation, Picotee, and Pink. Whichever may be the favourite, none, I think, will deny that all the grandeur belongs to the Carnation. The reason of this, though not obvious, is quite intelligible, and arises (to compare small things with great) from the same difference of principle that separates Gothic architecture from classical—the principle of perpendicular and of horizontal lines. The stripes of the Carnation are disposed longitudinally, the same way with the length of the petal, and are not terminated by any visible end. They run out, as it were, and lose themselves in space. The lacing on the petal of a Picotee or a Pink is stopped by its adjoining one, and it is transverse to the length of the petal; it forms a visible termination both to the flower and to its colours. Hence a Pink, often as large as the largest Carnation, will necessarily appear small and confined in comparison.

The restricting mode of colour, however, has its advantages as well as its disadvantages. For the Carnation, from its greater variety, both in forms and colours, ought to be the prettiest of the three; in which quality I believe most of my fair readers would be disposed to place it, where I should myself, as the last, instead of the first. There is a sort of masculine character imparted to it by its concentrated efforts towards magnitude, which impairs its delicacy. It is this direction of the lines of colour in the Picotee which makes what are called "bars" a disfigurement; a sentence which many denounce as capricious and unreasonable, not considering that they are transverse to the lines of colour, and that lines at right angles are necessarily harsh.

The ordinary mode in which the petals of a modern pelargonium are disposed, give an instance

of another effect imparted to a system of colours by the shape of the ground on which they are laid. The two larger or upper are sometimes called back petals, not because they really lie further back than the three lower ones, but because these latter are commonly thrown straight forwards, while the others have a greater tendency to the other direction and to reflex, whereby the face of the flower is thrown upwards and forwards, and a character of forwardness or boldness imparted to it, the same as there is to the human countenance by the same position; and what is called a bold flower is one in which this disposal of the petals is more than ordinarily conspicuous.

When colour is only effective in the mass, the shape most adapted for showing it to advantage will depend partly on the natural form of the flower, partly, as before observed, on its size, and partly on the brilliance, or otherwise, of its hue, or, which comes to the same thing, whether colour or shape take the precedence.

In the subordinate parts of a flower, as the single petal, for instance, the imbricated form, so called from its resemblance to a drain tile, takes off from the stiff formality of the *Camellia*; and the quilled petal gives liveliness and grace to the *Chrysanthemum*. The same form detracts from the appearance of the *Aster*, because its petals are so narrow, that they cannot afford the shrinking of size it occasions.

Observations of this kind may and ought to be extended to considerable minuteness of detail; but as they are only applications of what has gone before, they will not require me to draw at greater length upon the kind patience of your readers or yourself.

The other origin of beauty is *colour*, the most obvious source of our varied pleasurable impressions from the flower garden, and on which, therefore, the reader may not unreasonably fear a discussion as long as that which has gone before. Happily, however, in this he will be mistaken; for the philosophic

or constant elements of its effectiveness, to which I am here confined, are few; nor is it intended fully to discuss these, for a reason that will be afterwards adverted to. The observations I have to offer will class themselves under colours in general as such, and on the juxtaposition of two or more on the same grounds.

1. With regard to colours in general, the preference of one before another arises, for the most part from causes of which I do not treat; for each has, intrinsically, an equal right to admiration. Much belongs to individual taste, much to accidental circumstance, such as rarity; and these, as not reducible to rule, are beside the present purpose. A blue Dahlia, or a scarlet Pelargonium, may be worth a hundred guineas; but the value is accidental, not essential, and belongs to the philosophy, not of the flower, but of *man*. There are, however, a few intrinsic qualities, according to which colour seems necessarily effective, or the contrary. I shall mention but two, applicable equally whether the flower in which they are found is self or particoloured. The first is *brightness*; by which I mean, neither a higher nor a deeper tint, the value of which is purely conventional and a matter of taste, but the opposite to the flat and washy appearance often seen in petals of thin substance, as if it were fading, and somewhat similar to what in art would arise from a too thin coat of paint. Possibly it may sometimes be connected with the epidermis alone being the seat of colour; because, if you look closely into the bell of a good light blue Hyacinth, the colour, however light, will appear to penetrate the entire fleshy substance of the petal, and will be as bright and lively as the deepest tint could be. All the rays of its colour are reflected back to the eye, and not absorbed and lost, as many of them are, in the dull, thin, and watery colour of some of the old (not Chinese) Hollyhocks of twenty years ago. Bybloemen Tulips, when narrowly examined, are seldom entirely free from this

fault. The other quality is *distinctness*: by which term I mean, not the impossibility of mistaking at first sight whether the colour in question be a blue or a violet, a rose or a pink (for, on the contrary, I think such indescribable shades of colour as are best to be found in the rose, form one of the highest charms of that peerless monarch of the garden), but such an individual (may I use the word *idiosyncratic*?) distinctness, as when once well seen and felt will ensure its being distinguished from others. Without this, it would be equally impossible to discriminate between two thousand varieties, and useless to cultivate them: for a colour that excites no corresponding and pleasurable idea is worthless. Yet colours of this objectionable and meaningless kind are not uncommon, and often partially intrude into some of our best varieties, as in the Catafalque Tulip and others,—as if for a stimulus to the raiser still to press on for something nearer his idea of perfection. Seedling or breeder Tulips often are of a hue that seems hardly to be classed as a colour, but rather as a negation of colour. “Foxy” Auriculas and Polyanthuses are of this class.

IOTA.

[To be concluded in our next.]

PANSIES.—I have read with much satisfaction Mr. Oswald's Notes on the New Pansies of 1855, and the only one upon which I would make a remark is Beauty (Downie and Laird). Mr. O. says, Beauty is decidedly the queen of the white ground class. This is entirely at variance with anything said about it by others, that I have heard. In my opinion, it is too like Mrs. Beck, being better only in the blotch. Mr. Oswald says also that it requires laying flat as it opens. So it does, and also requires the side petals to be brought together. In his list of twelve white

ground varieties, Mr. O. puts Beauty first, whereas I think it should be put after Nonpareil, Royal Standard, Miriam, Royal Visit, and Charles Cowan. Mr. Oswald's chief omission is, however, the fact that he has not in his list what I consider to be the best white ground variety, viz. Miss Talbot, which is as constant as Beauty, and a larger grower.—S., *Kilmarnock*.

TULIP CABINET.—In addition to the description of a Tulip cabinet, from the pen of Mr. Harrison, given in the present number, we have to thank our correspondents, W. N. S. and Mr. W. R. Lymbery, for papers on the same subject, which reached us subsequently to the receipt of that from Mr. Harrison. As the description of the cabinet, in these papers, does not differ in any material particular from that of Mr. Harrison, we have not thought it needful to publish them, but our obligation is none the less to our friends, and we have no doubt Mr. Cliff will feel equally obliged with ourselves. Two points in detail are, however, in our opinion, improvements upon the system described by Mr. H. W. N. S. has each compartment *numbered*, by which means the trouble of pasting and re-pasting the name of the bulb occupying the compartment is obviated;—and Mr. Lymbery's cabinet is enclosed with doors in the front, panelled with perforated zinc, of an elegant pattern, and the ends (or sides) being of the same, a current of air is ensured far more effectually than by means of holes from the back.

HINTS FOR THE MONTH.

FLORISTS' FLOWERS.

AURICULAS.—These should now be placed in the spot chosen for winter quarters. See that the sashes are in a sound state, and guard them from drip, during wet weather, which would be

highly injurious. Water sparingly, and give air freely, removing the lights entirely when the weather suits. Remove decayed foliage, and stir the soil on the surface of the pots occasionally.

CALCEOLARIAS.—At this season, these do not require protection, further than guarding them from frost. Propagation, by parting the roots, should be proceeded with without delay.

CARNATIONS AND PICOTEEES should, by this time, be established in their winter pots. The great care required with them will now be to attend to giving only sufficient moisture to keep them from flagging, and not enough to endanger their being attacked with their dreaded enemy the spot. Give air plentifully, taking care that the lights shall not be off when rain is falling.

CINERARIAS.—These will now be in a rapidly growing state. Shift into larger pots, when this appears necessary; removing into the greenhouse any that are in an advanced state towards flowering; give air abundantly, avoid blustering winds; attend to the timely application of sulphur, when a threatening of mildew appears; guard against frost, and keep clear of greenfly.

DAHLIAS.—The lifting and storing of these should be attended to without loss of time.

HOLLYHOCKS.—Roots of new and scarce varieties should now be potted up, and placed in a cold frame. Cuttings may still be put in where they will not be too damp. New varieties received at this season are generally small plants, they should therefore be induced to make plenty of root before spring, by shifting them as they require it, into a size or two larger pots. Let their situation be near the glass, either in a cold frame or greenhouse.

PANSIES.—We have little to add to our last month's directions for these. Seedlings should be planted out, if not yet done. Make firm in the ground any which may require it of those already out. See to a reserved stock to make up deficiencies in the spring. These should be kept in pots during the winter. *Pansies in Pots.*—Those who have followed the directions in our last number will have their plants established in their winter pots. Give abundance of air, to keep them as hardy as possible, and see that they are not overcrowded.

PELARGONIUMS.—Those intended for early flowering, should now be in the pots in which they are to bloom, and will require only a very moderate quantity of water. Admit as much air as practicable, and let them be placed on a high airy shelf, near the glass, light being, at this season, particularly conducive to the well-doing of the plants.

PINKS.—Those in beds should be kept firm in the ground, and free from weeds, dead leaves, &c., and any not yet planted out, had better remain in their pots through the winter. *Pinks in Pots.*—The treatment of these may be similar to that recommended for Carnations.

TULIPS should be planted with the first favourable opportunity. A dry day will of course be chosen. Should the weather be wet, the bed should be protected with hoops and mats, or other expedients, to keep the soil dry. A little fine sandy soil should be used about the bulbs.

CALENDAR OF OPERATIONS,

FOR NOVEMBER.

[*From Rendle's Price Current and Garden Directory.*]

BRING up all October arrears ; clean every yard of ground of decaying vegetables, weeds, &c., and begin to prepare for a fresh campaign. Let all refuse be collected, charred, and housed afterwards, for the ensuing spring. Beware of the Ice King ; cover and watch your salads, especially Endive and Lettuces.

November is a good month for commencing alterations, removing fruit trees, shrubs, &c. Let such be got on with without delay, that they may take root and get established before the frost sets in. Clear up all leaves and store away ; they make valuable manure for anything, and particularly for plants in pots. Ridge-trench all vacant plots of ground, so that it may have the full benefit of the weather, to pulverise, and thus be in readiness for future crops. Drain all ground that requires it thoroughly and well. Form garden walks, repair hedges ; in fact, let everything be done that will add to the permanent usefulness and beauty of the garden, or the furtherance of next season's work.

BORECOLE AND BROCCOLI should now be checked, or taken up and laid in more sheltered situations.

CABBAGES AND COLEWORTS should be kept clear from weeds and dead leaves.

PARSLEY.—Secure a few strong roots in pots or boxes, place them in frames or houses, to be ready in case of frost or snow.

CELERY.—Supply more earth for blanching, as it progresses.

POTATOES.—To those who adopt autumn-planting, the present is a good season ; let them be buried so as the frost cannot penetrate.

ONIONS.—Potato Onions may now be planted, and till the middle of December. Look over the store Onions of the summer crop, and remove such as are decaying.

CAULIFLOWERS AND CAPE BROCCOLI.—Any that are heading should be secured from frost, by being pulled up and hung against the wall of a shed or cellar.

HORSE RADISH.—The present is a good time for transplanting crowns. Let them be planted two feet deep, in good soil, well-trenched ; they will then produce straight sticks, and clean.

ASPARAGUS beds should now be dressed, both for protection and manuring.

PEAS.—The first sowing should now be made. Sow in the most sheltered situations, as the crop is uncertain.

RADISHES may now be sown in frames, taking care to give all the air possible, in mild weather.

MUSTARD AND CRESS.—Sow in pans, to be placed in houses or frames.

BEANS.—A small sowing may now be made. The Early Mazagan and Dwarf Fan are the best for this season.

FLORAL EXHIBITIONS.

TULIP SHOW.

Held at the house of Mr. John Wharam, Butchers Arms, Audley, near Newcastle, Staffordshire, June 9.

Premier Prizes.—Feathered, Charles X., J. Johnson. Flamed, San Joe, E. Eardley.

Feathered Bizarres.

- 1 Charles X., E. Eardley
- 2 Surpass Catafalque, ditto
- 3 Charles X., J. Johnson
- 4 Surpass Catafalque, ditto
- 5 Rufus, ditto

Flamed Bizarres.

- 1 Polyphemus, E. Eardley
- 2 San Joe, J. Johnson
- 3 Rising Sun, E. Eardley
- 4 Rufus, ditto
- 5 Langressa, J. Johnson

Feathered Byblæmens.

- 1 Bienfait, E. Eardley
- 2 Addison, J. Johnson
- 3 Ambassador, ditto
- 4 Maid of Orleans, ditto
- 5 Ditto, ditto

Flamed Byblæmens.

- 1 Queen Charlotte, J. Johnson
- 2 Violet Brun, ditto
- 3 Unknown, E. Eardley
- 4 Arlington's George IV., J. Johnson
- 5 Gibbons, E. Eardley

Feathered Roses.

- 1 Comte de Vergennes, J. Johnson
- 2 Heroine, D. Brown
- 3 Heroine, J. Johnson
- 4 Lady Crewe, E. Eardley
- 5 Lady Middleton, D. Brown

Flamed Roses.

- 1 Aglaia, E. Eardley
- 2 Anastasia, J. Johnson
- 3 Aglaia, ditto
- 4 Triomphe Royale, E. Eardley
- 5 Rose Emily, ditto

Best Bizarre Breeder, Seedling, D. Brown; best Byblæmen, Orleans, J. Johnson; best Rose, Anastasia, J. Johnson.

TULIP SHOW.

At the Boar's Head Inn, Ashton-under-Lyne, June 14.

This show was one of the best and largest in the neighbourhood, being supported by upwards of forty subscribers, whose subscriptions were increased by the liberal donation of £5, from the landlord, Mr. E. Hall.

First prize, a very handsome silver cup, value £6, was awarded to John Turner, Esq., of Godley, near Hyde, for Masterpiece, Edgar, Heroine, Abercromby, Lord Denman, and Juliana.

Best pan of three Breeders, to Z. Peacock, Esq., for Grand Sultan, Oliver Goldsmith, and Juliet.

Maiden Prizes.—1. Haigh's Violet Amiable, T. Mellor. 2. Lady Crewe, W. Pickering. 3. Charles X., Mrs. Ann Hilton.

Premier Prizes.—Feathered, Charles X., W. Bentley. Flamed, Polyphemus, W. Chadwick.

Feathered Bizarres.

- 1 Charles X., W. Bentley
- 2 Charles X., J. Turner, Esq.
- 3 Sidney Smith, Z. Peacock, Esq.
- 4 Lord Lilford, S. Barlow
- 5 Surpasse Catafalque, J. Wild
- 6 Paul Pry, J. Naylor
- 7 Duke of Devonshire, W. Peacock
- 8 Royal Gem, J. Haigh
- 9 Old Dutch Catafalque, J. Turner, Esq.
- 10 Elizabeth, J. Naylor

Flamed Bizarres.

- 1 Polyphemus, W. Chadwick
- 2 San Joe, J. Newton
- 3 Charbonnier, L. Ashmole
- 4 Lustre, G. Broadbent
- 5 Polyphemus, S. Barlow
- 6 Albion, ditto
- 7 Sidney Smith, Mrs. Ann Hilton
- 8 Paul Pry, W. Chadwick
- 9 Earl St. Vincent, S. Barlow
- 10 Charles X., W. Matley

Feathered Byblæmens.

- 1 Haigh's Violet Amiable, T. Mellor
- 2 Bienfait, J. Naylor
- 3 Violet Amiable, W. Bentley
- 4 Edgar, J. Naylor
- 5 Lord Vernon, W. Peacock, Esq.
- 6 Baguet, J. Wild
- 7 Lancashire Hero, J. Haigh
- 8 Buckley's Beauty, J. Newton
- 9 Washington, J. Naylor
- 10 Catherine, J. Cock

Flamed Byblæmens.

- 1 Queen Charlotte, L. Barlow
- 2 Bienfait, J. Cock
- 3 Ashtonian, B. Haigh
- 4 Violet Wallers, S. Ardern
- 5 Alexander Magnus, J. Wild
- 6 Princess Royal, J. Newton
- 7 Democrat, G. Broadbent
- 8 Prince Elie, W. Pickering
- 9 Incomparable, ditto
- 10 Van Amburgh, J. Naylor

Feathered Roses.

- 1 Heroine, S. Barlow
- 2 Heroine, J. Cock
- 3 Lady Crewe, W. Chadwick

- 4 Newcastle, J. Cock
- 5 Jupiter, W. Chadwick
- 6 Bion J. Dicken
- 7 Count, J. Cock
- 8 Rosy Gem, W. Chadwick
- 9 Lady Grey, J. Cock
- 10 Anastasia, L. Ashmole

Flamed Roses.

- 1 Unique, J. Yarwood
- 2 Aglaia, S. Barlow
- 3 Celestial, ditto
- 4 Triomphe Royale, T. Mellor
- 5 Vesta, J. Cock
- 6 Anastasia, W. Chadwick
- 7 Lady Suffield, S. Ardern
- 8 Mason's Matilda, S. Barlow
- 9 Unique, W. Matley
- 10 Vainqueur, T. Mellor

Bizarre Breeders.

- 1 Seedling, L. Ashmole
- 2 Ditto, ditto
- 3 Emperor Nicholas, ditto
- 4 Charbonnier, Z. Peacock, Esq.
- 5 Polyphemus, S. Barlow
- 6 Duke of Hamilton, S. Ardern
- 7 Atticus, J. Turner, Esq.
- 8 Willison's King, Z. Peacock, Esq.

Byblæmen Breeders.

- 1 Miss Forrest, J. Naylor
- 2 Princess Royal, J. Newton
- 3 Sir H. Pottinger, J. Hilton
- 4 Nimrod, J. Naylor
- 5 Duchess of Sutherland, J. Yarwood
- 6 Delicata, L. Ashmole
- 7 Godet Parfait, J. Newton
- 8 Rubens, W. Chadwick

Rose Breeders

- 1 Queen of England, J. Hilton
 - 2 Lord Derby, W. Chadwick
 - 3 No. 87 Seedling, J. Turner, Esq.
 - 4 Celestial, S. Barlow
 - 5 Juliet, J. Turner, Esq.
 - 6 Lady Grey, G. Broadbent
 - 7 Arlette, S. Barlow
 - 8 Lady Catherine Gordon, L. Ashmole
- Sells.*
- Min d'Or, S. Barlow
 - White Flag, T. Mellor.

The Judges were Mr. John Hulton, Hooley Hill; Mr. William Lambert, Stockport; and Mr. Allsop.

THE FELTON UNION OF FLORISTS AND HORTICULTURISTS.

The members of this old established and flourishing society, held their annual exhibition of Tulips, &c., after a week's postponement on account of the ungenial state of the weather, on Monday, the 11th of June, at Mr. R. Gowen's, Fox and Hounds Inn, Felton, when the prizes were awarded as under:—

Extra prizes, given by R. Riddell, Esq., of Felton Park.

For the best three Tulips, one Rose, one Byblæmen, and one Bizarre, the 1st prize to J. Crosshug, Felton Park, for Captain White, Violet Alex-

ander, and Triomphe Royale: and the 2nd to W. Harrison, West Thirston, for Harrison's Felton Hero, Triomphe de Lisle, and Aglaia; and for the best collections of Vegetables, the 1st prize to J. Hudson, Felton; and the 2nd to T. Mack

The Society's prizes are as under:—

<i>Feathered Bizarres.</i>		5 Unknown, J. Grahamsley
1 Gowens's Cathcart, J. Crossling		6 Ditto, ditto
2 Harrison's Pegasus, W. Harrison		<i>Flamed Byblæmens.</i>
3 Ditto, ditto		1 Violet Alexander, J. Grahamsley
4 Tyson's Polydora, ditto		2 Youell's Baguet, W. Harrison
5 Milner's Duke of Devonshire, J. Grahamsley		3 Constant, J. Grahamsley
6 Surpass Catafalque, W. Harrison		4 Violet Imperial, T. Dawson
<i>Flamed Bizarres.</i>		5 Triomphe de Lisle, ditto
1 Polyphemus, J. Grahamsley		6 Lawrence's Friend, J. Grahamsley
2 Donzelli, J. Crossling		<i>Feathered Roscs.</i>
3 Duke of Devonshire, ditto		1 Heroine, W. Harrison
4 Polyphemus, J. Grahamsley		2 Ditto, ditto
5 Harrison's Sir Hugh Gough, W. Harrison		3 Heroine, R. Richardson
6 Crossling's Sir George Brown, J. Crossling		4 Comte de Vergennes, ditto
<i>Feathered Byblæmens.</i>		5 Unknown, T. Dawson
1 Alexander Magnus, J. Crossling		6 Lady Crewe, W. Harrison
2 Blanche, W. Harrison		<i>Flamed Roses.</i>
3 A Chellaston, J. Crossling		1 Aglaia, J. Crossling
4 Norwich Baguet, W. Harrison		2 Strong's Ada, W. Harrison
		3 Triomphe Royale, R. Richardson
		4 Triomphe Royale, T. Dawson
		5 Triomphe Royale, R. Richardson
		6 Triomphe Royale, T. Dawson

PANSIES.

Stands of Six Dissimilar Blooms.—1. Flower of the Day, seedling, Cathcart, Queen of England, Adela, and Omar Pacha, J. Crossling, Felton Park. 2. Sir J. Paxton, Marchioness of Bath, St. Andrew, Duke of Devonshire, Diadem, and a seedling, J. Crossling, Felton Park. 3. Flower of the Day, Mrs. Crossling, Ophir, Marchioness of Bath, Queen of England, and Percy's Seedling, J. Harrison Warkworth. 4. Duchess of Rutland, Ophir, Miss Cresswell, and three seedlings, Mr. Bell, Link House. 5. Flower of the Day, Marchioness of Bath, Sir J. Paxton, Isabel, Duke of Norfolk, and Queen of England, J. Harrison. 6. Ophir, Norfolk, Flower of the Day, Blanche, Miss Cresswell, and Sir J. Paxton, Mr. Bell.

Best Seedling Pansy.—J. Crossling, with Crossling's Admiral Lyons, a fine white ground and nicely purple beited variety.

Best Five Polyanthuses.—J. Grahamsley, Felton.

Best Auricula.—R. Richardson, Acton.

VEGETABLES.

Best Cauliflower Broccoli.—1. T. Dawson. 2. J. Hudson. 3. T. Lawson.

Best Three Leeks (London Flag).—1. T. Dawson. 2. T. Bell. 3. T. Mack.

Best Eighteen Radishes.—1. T. Mack. 2. R. Gowens. 3. W. Scott.

Best Two Cabbages.—1. W. Dobson, West Thirston. 2. W. Dobson, West Thirston. 3. T. Dawson.

Best Rhubarb (Victoria).—1. W. Scott. 2. T. Mack. 3. J. Hudson.

Extra prizes were also awarded to J. Harrison, of Warkworth, for a fine dish of early Potatoes, to Mr. Cookson, for Onions, and to J. Robson, for Lettuces.

Considering the very unfavourable season, this exhibition was a very good one, and we are happy to say the decisions of the Judges, Messrs. J. Morris, of Sleekburn, J. Harbottle, and A. Gowens, of Felton, gave full satisfaction.

TULIP SHOW.

At the House of W. Ogden, the Unicorn and Park Inn, Repton, June 16.

Premier Pan.—Charles X., and San Joe, B. Hilton. 2. Unique and Magnum Bonum, J. Ashton. 3. Unique, and Magnum Bonum, W. Bentley.

- 4 San Joe, and Charles X., J. Ogden. 5 Unique, and Charles X., J. Wood.
6 Unique, and Charles X., J. Heap.

Feathered Bizarres.

- 1 Magnum Bonum, S. Barlow
- 2 Charles X., B. Hilton
- 3 Lord Lilford, W. Bentley
- 4 Surpass Catafalque, ditto
- 5 Rufus, L. Fox
- 6 Crown Prince, J. Ashton
- 7 Trafalgar, T. Mellor

Flamed Bizarres.

- 1 San Joe, B. Hilton
- 2 Albion, J. Ogden
- 3 Earl St. Vincent, B. Hilton
- 4 Duke of Lancaster, J. Morton
- 5 Polyphemus, J. Ashton
- 6 Lustre, L. Fox
- 7 Charles X., ditto

Feathered Byblæmens.

- 1 Bienfait, W. Bentley
- 2 Catherine, J. Ashton
- 3 La Belle Narene, ditto
- 4 Baguet, J. Wood
- 5 Sable Monarch, J. Ashton
- 6 Louis XVI., J. Wood
- 7 Buckley's Beauty, B. Hilton

Flamed Byblæmens.

- 1 Bienfait, J. Ashton
- 2 Wallers, J. Morton
- 3 Dianna Bruin, B. Hilton
- 4 Roi de Siam, L. Fox
- 5 Unknown, B. Hilton
- 6 Unknown, S. Barlow
- 7 Tout, T. Mellor

Feathered Roses.

- 1 Heroine, L. Fox
- 2 Lady Crewe, J. Ogden
- 3 Count, J. Ashton
- 4 Dolittle, S. Barlow
- 5 Newcastle, W. Bentley
- 6 Fairplay, B. Hilton
- 7 Rose Mignonne, L. Fox

Flamed Roses.

- 1 Vesta, B. Hilton
- 2 Unique, ditto
- 3 Aglain, J. Ashton
- 4 Celestial, S. Barlow
- 5 La Vandicken, J. Morton
- 6 Matilda, S. Barlow
- 7 Lord Hill, J. Ashton

Bizarre Breeders.

- 1 Polyphemus, S. Barlow
- 2 Duke of Kent, J. Morton
- 3 Cotterel's Elizabeth, W. Bentley

Byblæmen Breeders.

- 1 Unknown, J. Ogden
- 2 Princess Royal, S. Barlow
- 3 Sable Monarch, J. Ashton

Rose Breeders.

- 1 Anastasia, J. Ashton
- 2 Village Maid, ditto
- 3 Catherine, W. Bentley

Selfs.

- Min d'Or, J. Wood
White Flag, B. Hilton

PINK SHOW.

At Mr. J. Griffith's, Sutherland Arms Inn, Newcastle-under-Lyme, July 7.

Judges.—Mr. D. Brown, Newcastle, and Mr. E. Harding, Stoke-road.

Premium, by Mr. E. Barker, to W. Griffiths, for the best bloom of Barker's Captain Hall, sold out in 1854.

Purple-laced.

Premier.—Taylor's Mango, W. Griffiths

- 1 Mango, W. Griffiths
- 2 Barker's Captain Hall, ditto
- 3 Sambo, H. Eaton
- 4 Duke of St. Albans, W. Griffiths
- 5 Seedling (John O'Gaunt), E. Barker
- 6 Greensides, G. Smith
- 7 Beauty of Rochdale, H. Eaton
- 8 Airdale Beauty, W. Griffiths
- 9 Professor, R. Moorley
- 10 Seedling, ditto

Red-laced.

Premier.—Joseph Sturge, W. Griffiths

- 1 Williams's Thirza, E. Barker
- 2 Joseph Sturge, W. Griffiths
- 3 Moorley's seedling (Catharine), ditto
- 4 Coronation, ditto

- 5 Lady Antrobus, G. Smith
- 6 Moorley's Dorothy, R. Moorley
- 7 Partington's Mary Ellen, ditto
- 8 Susanna, ditto
- 9 Dr. Hepworth, E. Barker
- 10 Professor, W. Griffiths

Black and White.

Premier.—Kay's Mary, R. Moorley

- 1 Virgin Queen, E. Barker
- 2 Margaret, T. Bailey
- 3 Beauty of Blackburn, W. Griffiths
- 4 Kay's Mary, R. Moorley
- 5 Lilla, T. Bailey
- 6 Seedling, R. Moorley
- 7 Superior, H. Eaton
- 8 Seedling, R. Moorley
- 9 Beauty of Home, D. Bloor
- 10 Miss Jessop, ditto

SCOTTISH PANSY SOCIETY.

The first autumn exhibition, by this society, was held on the 12th of September, in George-square, in connexion with the Glasgow and

West of Scotland Horticultural Society's show. The stands were not so numerous, nor were the blooms so fine as we have seen in spring, yet the society were so well satisfied with the result of the experiment, that they have resolved to hold two meetings a-year in future, the one in Edinburgh the other in Glasgow. The following were the awards:

NURSERYMEN'S CLASS.—TWENTY-FOUR BLOOMS.

1st prize to Messrs. White and Sinclair, Paisley, for Gavazzi, Cyrus, Lucretia, Wondertul, Charles Cowan, Royal Visit, Queen Victoria, Comet, Lord Palmerston, Kossuth, Miriam, Minerva, Royal Purple, Flower of the Day, Miss Walker, Duke of Newcastle, Admiral Dundas, Great Western, Egon, Countess of Strathmore, Monarch, Rev. I. G. Gosset, and two seedlings. 2nd. Messrs. Paton & Small, Glasgow. 3rd. Messrs. Dickson & Co., Edinburgh. 4th. Mr. T. Douglas, Edinburgh.

GARDENERS' CLASS.—EIGHTEEN BLOOMS.

1st prize to Mr. W. Campbell, Pollok, for Charles Cowan, Gavazzi, Sir J. Cathcart, Great Western, Lady Emily, Countess of Strathmore, Flower of the Day, Miss Talbot, Lord Raglan (Campbell), Lustre, Aristides, Sir C. Napier, Wonderful, Mrs. Blackwood, Miriam, Climax, Royal Visit, and St. Andrew. 2nd. Mr. J. Paten, Strathleven. 3rd. Mr. Boyd, Easterhill. 4th. Mr. J. Gibson, Cathcart.

GARDENERS' CLASS.—TWELVE BLOOMS.

1st prize to Mr. Cunningham, Cowglen, for Duke of Perth, Miss Talbot, Lady Emily, Countess of Strathmore, Lord Raglan (Campbell), Gavazzi, Charles Cowan, Flower of the Day, Yellow Climax, Miriam, Sir J. Cathcart, and Royal Visit. 2nd. Mr. W. Thom, Paisley. 3rd. Mr. J. Harrow, Paisley.

TWELVE BLOOMS, IN CLASSES, OPEN TO ALL.

1st prize to Mr. W. Campbell, Pollok, for Maggie Lyle, Wonderful, Flower of the Day, Royal White, Charles Cowan, Mountain of Snow, Miss Talbot, Bride, Lady Emily, Great Western, Gavazzi, and Sir J. Cathcart. 2nd. Mr. R. Wardrop, Woodend. 3rd. Mr. Thom, Paisley. 4th. Mr. J. Paton, Strathleven.

AMATEURS' CLASS.—SIX BLOOMS.

1st prize to Mr. Cunningham, Cowglen, for Gavazzi, Miss Talbot, Duchess of Perth, Lady Emily, Flower of the Day, and Countess of Strathmore. 2nd. Mr. Thom, Paisley. 3rd. Mr. I. Mitchell, Cathcart.

GARDENERS' CLASS.—SIX BLOOMS.

1st prize to Mr. W. Campbell, for Wonderful, Countess of Strathmore, Duke of Norfolk, Miss Talbot, Charles Cowan, and Great Western. 2nd. Mr. J. Gibson. 3rd. Mr. Harrow.

Best self prize to Mr. I. Harrow, for Purple Perfection.

Best light-ground prize to Mr. Wardrop, for Royal Standard.

Best yellow-ground prize to Mr. Thorn, for Great Western.

Sweepstakes prize (twelve blooms) to Mr. W. Campbell, Gavazzi, Royal Visit, Great Western, Lord Raglan (Campbell), Flower of the Day, St. Andrews, Miss Talbot, Charles Cowan, Lady Emily, Aristides, Sir J. Cathcart, and Earl of Mansfield.

First-class certificates were awarded to the following seedlings, viz.: Gem (Lyme & Middlemas) a very dark self, now being sent out. Achilles (Dickson & Co.), deep yellow ground, with marone belting. Sir Collin Campbell (Paton & Small), white ground, with purple margin.

ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

THE NORTHERN COUNTIES CARNATION AND
PICOTEE SOCIETY.

As we stated in our recent report of the exhibition of this society, we had intended offering a few remarks on the colour of the boxes used for the collections, and the best mode of getting-up and arranging the flowers for effect, we propose now to supply the omission.

We are aware that in thus assuming the office of teacher, we shall expose ourselves, and possibly very justly, to the charge of presumption. We are quite aware also that we may mystify rather than simplify,—yet our experience has so uniformly exhibited to us the want of consideration for, or the absence of information prevailing on these subjects, and we have thought our exhibitions so seriously injured as a consequence, that we feel impelled to enter upon the task.

In the first place, as to the colour of the boxes. No one can have attended our chief exhibitions without having their attention drawn to the varying colours and shades of colour employed by the different exhibitors. One will have an imitation of mahogany, another of rosewood, one chooses a pale green, another, if such a definition may be employed, a blue green, and everywhere there is diversity. It may help us to choose the best, if we decide what office the box has to fulfil. We hold that it should be *a foil to the flowers displayed upon it, and nothing else*. To do this, it should contain nothing to arrest the eye offensively, or markedly to arrest the eye. What the eye must see in its study of the flowers displayed, should be such as will afford relief, so that the gaze upon the colours of the flowers

may be sustained with pleasure for a longer time. No colour will give this relief so well as *dark green*, and no colour is less obtrusive, therefore we have long decided that this is the best. *Dark green* is not, however, the best for displaying the colours of the flowers. A lighter shade, and one with a slight admixture of yellow, one, in fact, closely resembling the tint of the just opened rose leaf, does this far more satisfactorily. We therefore use this for the field on which the flowers are placed, and the dark shade for the front, sides, and back of the box. Another most important point to attend to, is that the colour shall be solid and dense, smooth, and as polished as a piece of plate glass. It is impossible to over-estimate the effect, attention to these little matters of detail have upon the appearance of the flowers, and their influence upon *good judges*, that is, persons whose eyes have been long educated to discriminate minutely upon the effect of colours, and sensations of softness and smoothness, as opposed to roughness and coarseness. At Manchester, we saw several boxes, so rough, that to our eye, the flowers might have been displayed with equal propriety on a nutmeg grater.

In getting up the flowers for exhibition, it should be remembered that they cannot be handled too little, and that, as remarked by a correspondent, in our pages, recently, "it is far better to show the flower precisely as cut from the plant, than to show it with one-half or more of its petals disfigured by ugly splits." We observed, however, one serious error in the use of the card, which we must point out. Many of the competitors used no support under the card, but having starred the interior, allowed it thus to support itself upon the calyx. The effect of this inevitably was, that every petal was pressed upon the other,—in short, the flower was choked. Nothing could be more injudicious. The card, light and thin as it may be, is far too heavy and unyielding to be allowed to exert a pressure upon the delicate organiza

tion of the flower. To prevent this, a clear orifice, of not less than five-eighths of an inch in diameter, should be made in its centre, and its whole weight thrown upon a circle of light paper, attached to the calyx in the usual manner. Not only, by this arrangement, is the flower saved from the distortion consequent upon the pressure of the stiff points of a card, but another advantage is gained, in the ability to remedy, by the play of the card, the defect, occasionally observable, of a one-sided bloom, that is, a flower, the petals of which are unequally expanded.

To come now to the arrangement of the flowers for effect, it may be safely predicted, that that mode will be best, which, with a uniform appearance, shall most largely develop the beauties of contrast or combination in colours. Contrast, in the individual flower, forms one of the most important of its elements of beauty, and it is of equal value in a collection. Indeed we may say it is of greater importance, as, dealing with larger quantity, its effects may be made so instantly apparent. Thus the boldness and effect of a broad-edged picotee may be enhanced by judiciously placing it by the side of a flower lightly edged, and the brilliancy of a bright scarlet flake carnation is increased when seen immediately in the neighbourhood of a soft purple flake. Uniformity will be secured by choosing flowers even in size, and by so arranging the blooms that the colour shall be fairly balanced on every side. Colour will be imparted to the collection by the use of scarlet bizarres, or dark crimson bizarres, brilliancy by bright scarlet flakes, and softness by clear purple flakes, rose flakes, or light pink bizarres. In all cases, care should be taken that the corner flowers be distinct and decided in their character, and the fuller and deeper they are, consistent with distinctness, the better.

In Picotees, heavy-edged flowers have a far better effect at the corners than flowers of a lighter character. In these, as with the Carnation, and every other flower, the colour should be nicely balanced, so

that the eye may be carried easily over the whole. The stand of Picotees shown by us at Derby, this year, was composed as follows:—

Mrs. Norman. Red, heavy edged.	Mrs. Turner. Rose, light edged.	Amy Robsart. Purple, light edged.	Lady Grenville. Rose, heavy edged.
Florence Nightingale. Rose, light edged.	Annot Lyle. Purple, medium ed.	Prince of Wales. Red, light edged.	Mrs. Turner. Rose, light edged.
Venus. Rose, heavy edged.	Helen. Rose, medm. edged.	Haidee. Purple, light edged.	Countess. Purple, hvy. edged.

Those who are conversant with the flowers will at once see that full deep blooms were selected for the corners, and it is rarely the case that a good effect is obtained by a contrary practice. Mr. Turner's stand, at the National, was as follows:—

Mrs Hobbs. Purple, lt.feathd.ed.	Mrs. Norman. Red, heavy edged.	Eugenie. Red, light edged.	Mrs. Headly. Red, medium edged.
Mrs. Drake. Rose, heavy edge.	Lizzie. Purple, light edged.	Helen. Rose, medm. edged.	Finis. Purple, light edged.
Sultana. Red, heavy edge.	Lady Grenville. Rose, heavy edged.	Lord Nelson. Purple, hvy. edged.	Lamia. Rose, heavy edged.

It will be seen that this stand has more colour than that exhibited by us, and in this respect it was, doubtless, more perfect, colour being invariably to be desired, when in combination with a sufficiency of the white ground.

Our remarks, in our report of the exhibition, will have led to the inference that we would have made some considerable alteration in the arrangement of the prizes offered for competition, and for the consideration of our friends, we suggest the following, in full confidence that the results will be satisfactory.

Class A.—Twenty-four blooms, twelve Carnations and twelve Picotees.

80s., 60s., 50s., 40s., 30s., 20s.

Class B.—Twelve blooms, six Carnations and six Picotees.

50s., 40s., 30s., 20s., 15s., 10s.

We should restrict the latter class to cultivators of stocks not exceeding two hundred pairs, the first being open to all. This division would, we think, be found all that could be desired, for, much as we

approve of encouraging the cultivators of small stocks (of course always the majority,) to come forward, we have long learnt that the success of an exhibition is ensured, not by making many classes, but with few classes, and numerous prizes in each.

There is a manifest impropriety also in offering prizes of equal value for twelve blooms and twenty-four blooms. Such an arrangement is not encouragement to the cultivator of a small stock, but *discouragement* to him whose stock is larger, and it would be unnatural to expect that he who reaped the same for twelve flowers, would ever desire to produce twenty-four.

TULIP CULTURE IN THE MIDLANDS.

I VENTURE, Mr. Editor, to draw the attention of your readers, and more especially the cultivators of this magnificent flower, to one phase of their proceedings most strange to me, and I find, by a comparison of notes, no less singular to those of my southern brethren who have visited the midlands and north. I allude to the total absence of consideration for effect, and convenience for the study of, and enjoyment of the bloom, apparent in the arrangements of every collection I was able to visit during a short run of two days, through the neighbourhoods of Nottingham and Derby, last season. In fairness, I must state, that having left home very unexpectedly, I was not provided with those introductions I might otherwise have had, and I did not, therefore, visit in one or two places, where, probably, from the known social position of the owners of the collections, very different arrangements may prevail. At Mr. Gibbons's, of Chellaston, an awning had certainly been erected, but of a character so rude and primitive, that unless prepared to perambulate the bed upon one's marrow bones, it was impossible to get under

the same, except at the risk of a dislocation of the neck. At Mr. Godfrey's, of the same place, and where the growth of the flowers was assuredly worthy of the highest praise, the arrangements were still more novel, the bed being covered with what I could only compare to an enormous elongated calico extinguisher. This was partially removed, to enable me to look at individual flowers, but anything like a study of the general effect, or the results of contrast, and combinations of colour, was utterly out of the question. In the neighbourhood of Nottingham, the same results were observable. I must admit, so far as in such circumstances it was possible to come to a fair conclusion, that I found more good specimens as show flowers, upon the beds, marking being considered, than probably I could have shown myself, or have selected from my neighbours, in the same space; but, as I have already said, there appeared to be a total absence of all thought as to arrangements conducive to the enjoyment of these flowers when in bloom, or of those accessories calculated to give effect. Yet, humble as the circumstances of the cultivators generally no doubt are, judging from the appearances presented, these could not alone have formed a ground for a neglect so palpable; for the cost of a tulip house is inconsiderable, when compared with the sums spent upon the flower, and even with the humblest, I found that ten, twenty, thirty shillings, and even prices of a larger amount, were readily given for a desired variety. Yet a tulip house once provided would be kept up for a mere bagatelle; and that, with a few shrubs and neatness, would work wonders in the way of effect, besides leading inevitably to a knowledge of contrast and arrangement, which now evidently has no existence. With us, the commencement of Tulip cultivation is something like taking to a wife, the first requisite is to provide a house and its needful furnishing.

A SOUTHERN FLORIST.

"NOTES FROM MY NOTE BOOK."

ON THE NEW CARNATIONS & PICOTEEES OF 1855.

THE past season has, in some localities, been comparatively unfavourable to the perfect development of the Carnation and Picotee bloom, and therefore the experience of an individual cultivator may scarcely warrant censure on several new flowers, which have been anything but satisfactory, until they have undergone another year's probation, and possibly under more favourable auspices. I will, therefore, assume the more pleasing duty of recommending a few that are really good and worthy a place in the most choice selections.

The first in order stands Hope (Puxley), C.B., which, though not A 1 of its class, is a beautiful, bright, useful show flower. Exit (May), S.F., is a flower of great refinement, but of bad constitution, being shy of increase, and most difficult to winter, even under judicious care. Christopher Sly (May), S.F., is a very fine flower, and one, I am persuaded, will wear Exit out, being of fine habit of growth, rich colour of peculiar crimson shade, superb petal, and good form. King John (May), R.F., can easily be beaten in its class, yet it is a fine, useful show flower, as grown in the south. For the midland counties it is three weeks too late in its blooming. It attains immense size, yet is rather *full*, to my fancy. In Picotees, there have been a few superb additions; and first on my list is Mrs. Bayley (Dodwell), H.P.E.; assuredly, up to the present time, A 1 of her class. Finis (May), Mrs. Keynes (Norman), and Amy Robsart (Dodwell), light purple edge, it will be difficult to surpass in excellence, or to decide which is the best of the three, though all are perfectly distinct. Mrs. Hoyle (Hoyle), H.R.E., is an extra fine variety, but unfortunately too late for the midland counties. In light reds we have three gems, in Rosetta (Turner), Mrs. Kelke (Turner), and Miss Wake (Haddon); each and all are first class

flowers. Lady Grenville (Turner) is a heavy rose, of a pleasing, soft colour. I have seen it very fine. With me the petal inclined to reflex, and the marking was more feathered than solid. Alice (Hoyle), heavy rose, is a gem of unsurpassed excellence; pre-eminently distinct from Venus (Headly). The foregoing close my list for approbation, and, for the benefit of beginners (of whom I trust there are many), I subjoin a list of thirty-six *accessible* varieties:—

CARNATIONS.

- S.B.s—Admiral Curzon (Easom), *Omar Pacha (Puxley), Mr. Ainsworth (Holland).
 C.B.s—Black Diamond (Haines), Hope (Puxley), Jenny Lind (Puxley).
 P.P.B.s—Sarah Payne (Ward), *Morgan May (Turner), Falconbridge (May).
 P.F.s—Premier (Millwood), Julia (Nicklin), Mayor of Oldham (Hepworth).
 S.F.s—Christopher Sly (May), Queen Victoria (Simpson), Tybalt (May).
 R.F.s—Uncle Tom (Bramma), Poor Tom (May), Lovely Ann (Ely).

PICOTEES.

- H.P.E.—Mrs. Bayley (Dodwell), Alfred (Dodwell), Countess (Fellowes).
 L.P.E.—Finis (May), Mrs. Keynes (Norman), Amy Robsart (Dodwell).
 H.R.E.—*Sultana (Turner), *Dr. Pitman (Turner), Rufus (Merryweather).
 L.R.E.—Rosetta (Turner), Mrs. Kelke (Turner), Mary (Dodwell).
 H.Ro.E.—*Mrs. Drake (Turner) Helen (May), Alice (Hoyles).
 L.Ro.E.—*Bertha (Marris), *Florence Nightingale (Dodwell), Mrs. Barnard (Barnard).

Those marked with an asterisk are new this autumn.

R. R. O.

November, 1855.

Another correspondent writes,—May's Galatea must not be lost sight of. With me it has been a worthy rival of Sarah Payne. John o'Gaunt has been as treacherous as he was last year. Exit has been extra-extra; full without confusion, a superb

scarlet, and one of the best whites I ever saw. Prince Albert was very good ; as also was Mrs. Hoyle. Mrs. Headly is a regular burster. Hoyle's Alice will be a beat upon Venus, but is such a flower to burst. I lost every pod on two plants, although I must plead guilty to a little neglect in watching. Black Diamond has bloomed most excellently, and Captain Franklin has been marked admirably. King John has flowered with me in fine style, and is a decided acquisition. Amy Robsart was very fine, and attracted my particular attention. Harry Bertram, although very full, was good in the later blooms. The first blooms were barred in the extreme. Annot Lyle was rather out of character. Of Kaye's Excelsior I had a magnificent flower, failing only in the white ; rather a large failing to be sure. Kaye's Comet, S.F., appears a beautifully marking flower, but is terribly "leggy." I firmly believe he must have raised all of that batch from Hamlet, they are all so much alike in their growth. What is your opinion of Young Milton, C.B.? Mine bloomed rather heavy in colour, but I think I grew it too richly, as it was backward, and I pushed it too much. This may account for the indistinctness in its colour.



TULIP CULTURE.

IN the June number of the *Midland Florist*, O. fully controverts the statement of Mr. Headly, that "wet will not kill Tulips." My own experience convinces me of the truth of O.'s assertions. A few years ago, in a very wet season, I had a small bed of Tulips, which I could not properly drain, there being no outlet. The consequence was, many of the roots rotted, half of the bulbs decayed, and the remainder took up in a very indifferent condition. This year I have added another short chapter to the book of my experience on Tulip culture. It is this, excessive frost is

a great enemy to Tulips in all their stages of growth, and they need either natural or artificial protection. Previous to the frost setting in, my Tulips appeared to have grown well, and the bulbs made large roots. The frost came, the snow fell on the ground, but the high winds blew the beds as bare from snow as the highway is in summer. The frost had therefore free scope, and it produced very fatal results. Some first-rate strains of choice varieties, that I purchased last year, such as Royal Sovereign, Heroine, Sancta Sophia, and hundreds of others, have been totally destroyed, and those that survived shewed, by their stems, leaves, and blooms, that they had had a hard struggle with Mr. Frost. It is certainly not the effect of wet, for the beds are well drained. I have been led to note this down on account of another of Mr. Headly's unqualified assertions, that "frost, however severe, does not kill them." This, my experience and observation assure me, is not correct, and may therefore mislead some who are younger in the art of Tulip growing than ourselves. Undoubtedly, Mr. Headly is a high authority, and we cannot think he intentionally wishes to lead us astray; but his position, if passed unnoticed, would have that tendency, and is most certainly erroneous. I do hope Mr. Headly will not take what I say offensively, for I assure you, Mr. Editor, the name of Mr. Headly is more agreeable to me than the name of any saint that is recorded in the calendar. He is one of the faithful labourers in the world of floriculture, whose name will shine illustrious in the coming time, as one of the most successful raisers of new varieties in this age; and my worst wish is that he may live long and witness new trophies every season, as a reward for his perseverance in hybridizing and improving these beautiful flowers.

I admire the Tulip because it appears to me that the soul of beauty is more exuberant in it than in any other flower. It is this quality I seek in flowers. The stars, the clouds, the hills, the valleys, the landscapes, all are beautiful and refreshing to the mind,

but do not speak to me as do these popular and favourite flowers. They are so near we can drink in their revelations without interruption.

JOHN STEVENSON.

Great Fenton, Staffordshire.

CURRENT EVENTS.

WHEN, in my notice of the Chiswick June Show, I adverted to the crying evils besetting the management of our great Horticultural Corporation, and prognosticated the ruin impending, I little thought it would be my painful duty, within the limit of the year, to chronicle the "beginning of the end."

Far worse than my worst fears has occurred, and the management, despairing possibly of raising further loans, or failing in finding facility for such an operation, has sold off the large collection of Orchids and Ferns belonging to the gardens, preliminary, doubtless, to a total break-up of the establishment. Even in this, the last act, one apparently of despair, the want of a sound judgment, and a total inability to understand the public feeling, has been most lamentably demonstrated. On all sides the difficulties of the corporation have become matters of notoriety, and in every quarter known to me, one opinion, and one only, has been expressed. The managers should be promptly changed, and the pecuniary obligations of the society liquidated, or at least greatly reduced, by an appeal for voluntary contributions. And this latter, well organized, would be effectual. But the course pursued is to "sell up" the concern and retain the managers, and so long as "Fellows" can be found whose subscriptions will meet annual salaries for services (?) rendered, I suppose the stumbling-blocks will be retained. It may now, therefore, be accepted as definitively settled that we are to have no more shows at Chiswick, and the loss of these most interesting of

the periodical sights of London, may be attributed to the perverseness and obstinacy of their managers.

The results of the sale may be summed up in a few words. Five hundred guineas, or about one shilling in the pound, of the liabilities resting upon the society, have been realized. His Grace the Duke of Devonshire was the purchaser of the magnificent specimen of *Phalanopsis amabilis*, for sixty-five guineas, after a keen competition. Mr. Fairrie, of Liverpool, obtained the second best specimen, the fine *Lælia superbiens*, for thirty-five guineas. The sale was not without its incidents, numerous misnomers having been detected and pointed out by the "practicals" then gathered together, thus demonstrating the sort of *knowledge* which has prevailed in this scientific home. But enough! I have no heart for more. The council see nothing in the right light, and the society virtually dies in its fiftieth year.

To turn to more cheering subjects, let me record the tenth annual exhibition of the Stoke Newington Chrysanthemum Society, held on the 14th ult. In every respect, it was fully equal to the best of their former gatherings.. The subjects generally afforded ample proof of a marked improvement, whilst the plants of the pomponne varieties exhibited an excellence never observable in previous displays. The first prize, a handsome silver cup, for six distinct varieties, cultivated in eight-inch pots, and on single stems, was justly awarded to Mr. Wetherill, the sorts being *La Sultana*, *La Gitani*, *Bob*, *Drine Drine*, *Riquiqui*, *Cedo Nulli*. 2nd, Mr. J. Edwards, *La Vogue*, *Cedo Nulli*, *Drine Drine*, *La Gitani*, *Comte Archille d'Atcheler*, *Madame de Vatry*. 3rd, Mr. Scrooby, *Bob*, *Modèle*, *Crostignac*, *Bijou d'Horticulture*, *Helene*. There were six other exhibitors in this class, whose varieties were for the most part similar to the foregoing. Mr. James, the treasurer, was the only exhibitor in the class for large-flowering plants. His specimens were admirable examples of good cultivation, healthy, cleanly vigorous, well

matched, and fully in flower, They were Pilot, Christine, Chevalier, Dowager, Madame Bucharet, Annie Salter, Defiance.

Cut flowers were numerous, four hundred and seventy-four blooms being staged, in collections of six, twelve, and twenty-four. Mr. Oubridge was first, with Themis, Duke, Madame Gordereau, King, Aregida, Nonpareil, Pio Nono, Beauty, Lysias, Duke, Formosa, Dupont de l'Eure, Madame Audrey, Plutus, Hermione, Arc en Ciel, Stafford, Virgil, Leon Laquay, Rose Mystica, Anaxa, Miss Kate, Defiance, and Two-coloured incurved. The best flowers of the other winning collections were, Beauty, Lysias, Themis, Plutus, Arigena, Nonpareil, Queen of England, Hermione, Madame Audrey, Racine, Dupont de l'Eure. The prizes in the class for twelve blooms were keenly contested, and many sterling specimens produced. 1st, Mr. Elliott, Anaxa, Themis, King, Beauty, Arigena, Madame Audrey, Dupont de l'Eure, Madame Gordereau, Virgil, Formosa, Hermione, Rosa Mystica. The other stands contained fine specimens also of Hermione, Gem, Aregina, Plutus, Formosa, Nonpareil, and Yellow Defiance.

A large, somewhat coarse seedling was exhibited by Mr. Salter, and named Alfred Salter. In colour it is a deep lilac blush, with bold petals, and very double, but too flat on the face. With improved cultivation, an incurved character may be obtained, and the variety highly improved. If this be effected, a fine flower will be added to our stock.

Another *event* most interesting was the respect evinced by the employed at the Royal Nursery, Slough, for their employer, Mr. C. Turner, in their inviting him to a dinner, at the Royal Hotel, Slough, on the 16th ult. The esteem felt for the guest, by his townsmen and brother tradesmen, was testified in their unanimously-expressed desire to join in the ovation. Thus the number of the employed, forty-four, was augmented by sixty, including Mr. Turner's immediate neighbours and many distant friends. As

may be anticipated, the floral decorations of the large dining hall were most tasteful, and at the same time the enjoyment of the occasion was made complete by the admirable musical entertainment volunteered by a portion of the choir of the Royal Chapel, Windsor, combined with the full strength of the Slough band. These, coupled with the determination to do honour to the kindnesses and generousities of a good neighbour, made the meeting one of those long to be remembered by its promoters, who, let us hope, profited by what was there promulgated.

EXTRACTS, HINTS, AND RECOLLECTIONS.

THE PHILOSOPHY OF FLORISTS' FLOWERS.

[Reprinted from the *Florist* for 1849.]

No. VIII.

WITH respect to the case in which more colours than one are associated in the same petal or blossom, the difference of effect is extreme between a tasteful arrangement, or the reverse; and taste in this sense, that is as far as it is subject to certain and invariable rules, comes properly within the scope of this essay. These rules, as before observed, may be classed under the heads of *Combination* and *Contrast*; for though the difference between these two modes of harmony may not seem so obvious as is implied in the opposition of the words, yet there is a real and essential opposition, both in the principle of association and in the effect produced on the beholder. In either case there must be a mutual adaptation between the colours; but in the one, it is to form a single compound idea; in the other, two separate and rival ones.

Whether for combination or contrast, the colours must be in juxtaposition, but not necessarily in contact. Colours that do not readily combine, may be seen to do so when there is an interval; and a contrast is often more striking when it is not only between the colours themselves, but between them as displayed in opposite parts of a flower. It is only requisite that the eye be able to take them in together.

1. The first mode of combination is that in which the two join and yet are completely distinct, as in two parallel stripes of the African Marigold; or in which one colour is laid on another, as in the spotted or blotched *Calceolaria*. For the effect of such an arrangement to be pleasing, there must be a positive agreement or a positive diversity between the colours: if the former, they will combine; if the latter, they will contrast. And the peculiar power of combination is seen in this, that whereas the strongest diversity produces the most striking contrast, in harmonious * colours the most striking effect is sometimes when the diversity is least. Thus in a collection of *Pelargoniums*, amongst the strong contrasts afforded by the marone and other dark-coloured spots, a crimson, or still more, a scarlet spot on a pink or orange ground, in which there is no contrast, and but little diversity, will be the surest to arrest and retain the eye. Some varieties of *Iris*, *Ixia*, and *Gladiolus*, are remarkable for blending harmonious tints; indeed the whole tribe of *Irids* and *Amaryllids* is as rich in every example of colour as the *Orchids* are in form.

2. Another mode of combination is that in which they become partially blended, and form a cloudy mass; which, if the constituents harmonize, gives the idea of richness, and is usually a mark of high quality. But if the cloudiness be only partial, it will run the risk of an appearance of mere unevenness of colour, which is a great fault; and if the constituents do not harmonize, the result will be flat and dull.

3. The last form of combination is when they lose their separate existence, and produce an uniform new

tint; in which case, what has been said under the article of colour in general is applicable. Every existing colour may be considered as compound, because every known, or, indeed, conceivable one, may be made up of two others. And it is evident that the number of such must be unlimited; so that variety produced by colour must be unlimited likewise. And in nature we find it so. The various shades of colour in a self Verbenia give it as much variety as a party-coloured one has.

It seems hardly determinable with precision beforehand what colours will combine and what will not, or even what will contrast: except that, as might be expected, every colour will contrast with white or grey; and therefore it may be taken as a rule, that a small white or grey interval will reconcile any two colours. Their position on the solar spectrum conducts but a very little way, and is not to be implicitly trusted even so far as that. It is a deficiency, however, of no consequence; for even if it were otherwise, our only appeal would be to experience, and that is our guide now.

Yet thus far is plain, that in contrasts the most dissimilar elements, as those from opposite ends of the spectrum, or dark and light, or any other contraries, produce the greatest effect. And further, that colours which will not combine into one idea, will often readily harmonize without an interval, if, by their position, a contrast be excited. Thus the green-edged Auricula is considered the most perfect form of the flower, because the refractory green is made to contrast with the ring of colour, by the rings being separated into parts of co-ordinate value, by being concentric.

To conclude, then, if it be asked which is the higher origin of beauty, I would say, Contrast possesses the far greater range of effects, and has all the boldness, energy, and pungency on its side; but Combination presents all the smoothness, elegance, and high-toned richness of colouring, and, as far as

I can analyse my own perceptions, excites the livelier emotions of pleasure. Contrast makes far more out of unpromising materials, and brings out their hidden and unsuspected powers, like pitting them in a contest of skill; to combination appertains refinement, and the grace peculiar to high breeding. Contrast, in short (to use a quaint similitude), has the virtues of democracy, combination those which may be called aristocratic.

It is by contrast that the margin of a large-blotched *Pelargonium* becomes so striking and effective, even when the beauty is enhanced, as it often is, by its being between colours that combine. There should, therefore, be no pencillings, nor any processes of the blotch breaking into it to mar its distinctness. It is by contrast that the white eye of others adds so much to their beauty. Neither of these properties has any positive value; it is relative, and depends on the contrast; and that in the throat is often formed entirely by the abruptness with which the colour terminates. Hence it is that a feather in the eye, however small, gives an appearance of poverty, because it detracts from the purity of the white, and, by consequence, from the contrast in which the effectiveness resides.* Finally, it is to contrast, in a great measure, that the gorgeous splendour of the Tulip is owing; for its bold and bright colours being laid on the purest white or yellow surface, the extreme purity of the ground brings out with such perfect effect the strokes of the pencilling.

When combination and contrast unite in the same flower, which is far from rare, the order of excellence is such as to admit of the highest effect colours are capable of giving.

The boundaries of science being now established, the province of taste may be inferred, as including all not restricted by the former. When the rules of

* The readers of *The Florist* will have met with this idea before (as also that contained in the preceding sentence). And I have a pleasure in acknowledging that it was from seeing it in a former number, in a remark of the superintendent, that I adopted and have analysed it here.

science have defined what is invariable and necessary, a large field will still remain open for individual taste to luxuriate in without reproach ; limited, indeed, on all sides from transgressing its proper bounds, but within its ample space unfettered. This is the region of taste, to which belongs whatever is not claimed by the more rigid exactness of scientific rule. It is the residuary legatee, when all specified claimants are satisfied.

But beyond its legitimate sphere it can have no jurisdiction. Whatever nature (which is the law of our Maker) requires, taste cannot dispense with as out of fashion ; whatever it rejects, taste cannot patronise into a beauty. It may prefer colour to colour at its pleasure, and dispute over the rival claims of its several favourites, which have naturally an equal claim to admiration ; but it is out of place when it demands precedence for an angular over a flowing outline, or for a disproportionate or an unmeaning shape over one of which every part has reference to the whole ; nor ought it to be allowed to stamp a conventional value upon an incongruous assemblage of colours.

A cultivated taste does not often err thus. And by a cultivated taste, I mean simply, one that is conversant with a flower in its varieties, and takes an interest in their observation. It is curious to observe the tact a person rapidly acquires in discerning anything that is really a natural defect, or the parent of a natural advantage, merely by frequent unconscious comparison. And this is the origin of the agreement there is between florists in the "points" of flowers. And the reason it is not more perfect is, because the faculty is not equally cultivated in all, nor is it perfect in any. Mere observation has not the means of training the eye to completeness ; for perfection has never hitherto been reached in the objects of its study. It is also partly owing to an erroneous as well as a defective standard. For in forming a standard of excellence of any particular florist's flower, the legi-

timate preferences of varying taste have generally been allowed a voice, which is a mistake.

Reasoning, however, will help to supply the deficiency. Discussions on the subject, such as are constantly appearing in the pages of periodicals like *The Florist*, will always tend to promote such agreement, because there is a solid foundation at bottom, and therefore a true appeal to nature. There are in nature certain fixed laws applicable (and in practice already to a great extent applied) to the estimate of any flower. And the readers of such discussions, whether they agree to or dissent from what they read, so they but exercise thought upon it, are gradually acquiring for themselves the faculty of correctly judging whether those laws are infringed or not. Nor can any one have perused the papers I here conclude, without making an advance in a knowledge, of which, perhaps, at first he was inclined to dispute the existence.

I have now brought this essay to a close; and beg to return my sincere thanks to you, sir, and to your readers, for the courtesy with which you have borne with its extension to a much greater length than I anticipated. The earlier papers, not from having had more care bestowed upon them, but from the nature of their subjects, are more complete than the latter ones, nor have I omitted in them any thing I intended to say. The same cannot be affirmed of the portions on auxiliary forms, and on the province of taste, because the principle being fully given, it was unnecessary to lengthen these letters still further by applying it to every case to which it is applicable. The observations on colour require no more ample apology; for having (with the exception mentioned in the note) been drawn exclusively from the inspection of nature, and that with very confined opportunities, they cannot claim to exhibit the completeness of a system. As far as they go, however, I have but little misgiving about their correctness.

That I have made no mistakes in the philosophical elements of beauty in a flower, is rather to be wished than expected: but I have taken the best means that lay in my power to make none. Neither can I be a competent judge of the extent to which I have succeeded in my original purpose; but this I hope may be considered as proved, that the pursuit of the florist is as little to be branded as childish, and is not less rational as a recreation than any other part of horticulture. I do not scruple boldly to avow before the most fastidious, that it is a pursuit not unworthy of a wise man, nor unbefitting a good one; it is elegant, instructive, scientific, and full of results. And the reader of his Bible may see, and grow wiser by seeing, in it another instance of the tenure on which he holds his portion on earth; that the ground and the things that grow out of it do not yield to him their advantages without the labour of his hands and the exercise of his intelligence.

I have no wish to place the occupation of the florist above its natural mark; but I am sure that, in itself, in all its branches, it is undeserving of any reproach, unless it be one to feel the beauties God has created for our pleasure, and to draw them forth from the obscurity in which he has hidden them by the means he has appointed for the purpose. The same objection which is made to cultivated varieties of a natural flower would equally condemn the diamond to remain in obscurity in the mine where God has placed it, and would stigmatize the adventitious splendour it derives from cutting and polishing at man's will as an interference with nature. It may be—we know not; but it is neither impossible nor violently improbable—that before sin entered into the world, when the earth gave forth her increase without labour, the flowers may have spontaneously exhibited that standard of perfection, an approach to which the florist now laboriously aims at drawing forth from them. It may have been the same too with the har-

vest of the field and the fruits of the orchard; and that varieties of both, as incomparably superior in kind as superabounding in quantity to any thing we now see, may have been on their progress to maturity, to call forth the thanksgiving of pure hearts, had those hearts continued pure. And such may also be in store for a future period. But, in the mean time, we know that labour is enjoined, and that not of the hands alone, but of the *brom*; an expression which seems to betoken what is certainly true in fact, that, to obtain the riches of the soil, a trial of mental skill is required on the part of man, a putting forth of the resources of his intelligence, to overcome the reluctance of nature to rise up to its capabilities. And whether his ingenuity be exercised on the corn, on the fruit, or on the flower, it is rightly exercised; and the results are additions to the sum of human pleasures which the Creator himself has not thought beneath his care.

SYNOPSIS OF THE ESSAY ON THE PHILOSOPHY OF FLORISTS' FLOWERS.

BEAUTY in a flower is produced by a	I. FORM, consisting of outlines, general and subordi- nate.	1. <i>Absolute</i> , requiring	(1.) Unity: infringed in <i>idea</i> , by a plurality of equivalent parts. In <i>outline</i> , by intervals—by abrupt changes.
			(2.) Variety [effects of straight lines and curves]: Of form—of number—of colour.
	II. COLOUR.	2. <i>Relative</i> .	<i>Best</i> dependant on characteristics of the flower and mode of colouring. Actually, hemispherical the most perfect. Other examples.
			1. <i>In General</i> , } Must be, bright—distinct. or separately, }
		2. <i>In Union</i> ; } (1.) Combination, <i>if in natural</i> must be in } <i>agreement</i> . And this is, distinct, juxtaposition, } clouded, or compound. and mutually } (2.) Contrast, <i>if in natural con-</i> adapted; } <i>trariety</i> . producing, } Comparison of the two modes.	

Province of Taste includes all not restricted by necessary laws of Nature.

IOTA.

THE PLEASURES OF A GARDEN.

CUTTING my last bouquet for the present season, on the 13th day of November, I fell naturally into a train of reflections upon the events of the past, and the pleasures of a garden; not a garden made classical with statues and rare vases, delighting in sparkling fountains, ornamented with palatial arbours, or rejoicing in cool grottoes and secluded walks,—though, when it has been mine to enjoy such rarities, I have enjoyed them with a relish unsurpassable; but the pleasures of a garden unpretending in its character, and narrowed in its area, such, indeed, as may belong to a poor office-writer, with a stipend not exceeding the wage of an ordinarily skilled mechanic, and opportunities for its culture most limited. Yet, still my garden has its pleasures, sweet, and not transient; still it is a delightful thing, the “concentration of a thousand pleasant objects;” still does memory present, with fond affection, its long array of beauties unfaded; and many days of gloom and hours of monotonous toil will be relieved by pleasant reveries on flowers that were, and fond anticipation of those to come.

And shall I tell how pleasures so simple have been so sufficient? How, with opportunities of the most limited degree, I have needed never to repine? and how my daily bouquet has rarely, for eight months in the year, failed me? Two short rules have sufficed. I have confined myself to flowers of the easiest culture, and have learned to be content with results easily attainable, and within my reach. Early rising has compensated for long office-hours, and afforded time for those little attentions, in themselves so sweet and so delightfully requited. Strong health has been given to me for a seeming sacrifice of rest; and nature, seen in her dress of richly spangled dew, more gorgeous than diamonds or orient pearls in beauty, has been my daily enjoyment. Then, indeed, are the many glories of nature most glorious; then are her

sweetest odours poured forth ; then it is we are most ready to sing with Wordsworth—

“ God made the flowers to beautify
The earth, and cheer man's careful mood ;
And he is happiest who hath power
To gather wisdom from a flower,
And wake his heart in every hour
To pleasant gratitude.”

Then it is when “pleasant gratitude” rises most spontaneously to the Author of all Good, for the richly-varied beauties around us ; then is the Pansy most pleasant, the Pink most delightful, the Wall-flower most sweet, the Rose most charming ; then strongest within us is the love of those sweets

“ Which comfort man in his distress,
Which smile when he is gay ;
Their fragrance and their loveliness
They yield him day by day :
For patience and for humbleness,
No servitors like they.”

And fostering them, we reap a rich harvest of peace and content. Such peace and such content, such pleasures as have been reaped by a poor office-writer, may be realized by every one ; and it will gratify his fervent wish if his brief reverie shall conduce, even in the least, to a wider diffusion of the pleasures of a garden.

NEMO.

PANSIES “BEAUTY” AND “MISS TALBOT.”

I OBSERVE, at page 348, a criticism by “S., Kilmar-nock” on my notes of twelve “white-ground” Pansies, tending to depreciate the first-named flower. The writer's knowledge of this variety must be extremely limited, or he would not have ventured upon such a criticism. Taking into account the comparative isolation of Kilmar-nock, it may be presumed that “S.” has not had very distinguished opportunities for comparison, yet I can scarcely excuse his slight acquaintance with *Turner's Florist*, the *Midland Florist*, and the distinguished encomiums passed on Beauty by two of the best judges in the kingdom,

Messrs. Turner and Wood. Further, its success in obtaining three first-class certificates, whilst in the raiser's hands, proves my partiality to be in no wise isolated. Miss Talbot is undoubtedly a bright, useful show flower, but I should like to stage six flowers of Beauty, next May, against six blooms from "north the Tweed" of Miss Talbot, granting her all the consideration belonging to medium size, fine substance, and brilliancy of colour, which I am sorry to say are her sole attributes of the recognized standard, whilst against her must be placed a comparatively narrow and extremely indented bottom petal, creamy and angular ground colour, the side petals rarely meeting above the eye, and the whole flower of very imperfect outline. Such is my experience of Miss Talbot. Of Beauty my expressed opinion is unaltered, and, most assuredly, whoever neglects to add it to their collection, will, in 1856, be minus *one* of the *best six* white-ground Pansies in cultivation.

R. R. O.

November, 1855.

TULIP CABINET.—Our esteemed friend, Mr. John D. Hextall, of Ashby-de-la-Zouch, makes a most valuable suggestion as to the construction of the drawers, or cases, for containing the bulbs. Mr. H. says,—“The drawers, or cases, are best made by a printer's joiner, and on the same principle as the upper case for printer's type. The bottoms should be made of the strongest open canvass, similar to that used by ladies for working rugs upon.” The latter we think particularly desirable, as a current of air is thus ensured around the bulb.

QUERIES AND ANSWERS.

I am desirous of draining my garden, which slopes rapidly to the south-west, but is without an out-fall. If I can obtain an out-fall through the gardens of my neighbours, I will do so, but if

not, I propose to dig a deep hole, and to fill up the same with brick-bats or large stones, covering the whole carefully with boards, so that the soil shall not work into them. The soil is a stiff loam, lying on marl or clay. As I am quite a novice in draining, I shall be obliged by your advising me. 1st, should I carry the drain *across* the slope of the hill, so as to intercept the water coming thence from which I imagine I chiefly suffer, or should the drain run *down* the hill? 2nd, what depth of drain do you recommend? 3rd, what size of drain? 4th, pipes or tiles? 5th, will the deep hole I propose be likely to act, and what depth will be sufficient? A. Z.

A drain may run across the slope of the hill, and if others are required let them run down the hill, about eight yards apart, parallel, depth three feet six inches, using two-inch pipes without collars. If an out-fall cannot be obtained, a hole eight feet deep and three feet diameter, filled with brick-bats or large stones will answer, if the garden be not a very large one.

I have a *Cantua dependens*, a strong bushy plant, but which is very shy of flowering. I have thought it should have a different soil to that which it is potted in at present, being a poor but rather strong loam. Am I right in my conjecture?

J. H. RAWSON.

Our correspondent is not the only one who finds *Cantua dependens* shy at flowering. But as he states he has "a strong bushy plant," we would advise him to place it in a cool, airy, light part of the house or pit, just keeping it from frost, and giving it but little water until the flowers appear. As it is a plant which flowers on the previous year's shoots, it requires to be grown freely in the spring, which may be accomplished by potting in rich sandy turf loam, and a little leaf mould, and placing it in a moist and airy situation, stopping the stronger shoots here and there. Do not repot after the end of July or beginning of August, but place the plant in the most favourable position for ripening its shoots, at the same time keeping down the red spider. It will cast its leaves, but will flower freely in the following spring.

HUNTS SWEETWILLIAMS.—Observing the inquiry at page 321, from your Glasgow subscriber, as to these Sweetwilliams, I beg to say, I bought, last year, a parcel of them, for myself and two friends, and all turned out *vile*. We had far better sorts amongst ourselves over here. It was an extensive *sell*, and such things injure honest florists very much.

Dublin.

L.

M. H. M.—Bertha (Marris), light rose Picotee, is a short-jointed variety, but, unlike many of that description, roots freely. It is an extra-fine sort. Petal gently cupped, finely

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formed, large, of good substance, and solidly margined with a rich salmon rose. The pod is good, and it is easily bloomed. Its origin is uncertain, having been taken from mixed seed taken from King James, Mrs. Bevan, Jeanette, Bellona, Robinson's Elizabeth, and Fellowes's Prince Arthur. Miss Wake, light, or medium-edged red Picotee, was raised by Mr. S. Haddon, of Bugbrook, near Weedon, Northamptonshire. We have not bloomed it as yet, but, have the following from a source on which we have implicit reliance. "Miss Wake is apparently a seedling from Mrs. Bevan, has a fine flowing habit, a fine pod, a superb petal, large, finely formed and gently cupped, with a solid marking of medium width. The flower is just full enough; will carry three blooms well. A vigorous grower." Our friend adds, "I think the light reds stand thus: Rosetta, Mrs. Kelke, Mary, Miss Wake, Empress Eugenie, &c."

What colour do you recommend for the circular cards used for blooming the Carnation and Picotee upon? I have hitherto had white, but to my great surprise, I find in the *Scottish Gardener* for 1854, it is stated, "the best colour for the card is green."

M. W. M.

We recommend white cards. We have tried coloured papers green amongst others, and know that they are a positive dis-sight. Possibly the eyes of the writer of the recommendation quoted, had an affinity for green.

ED.

ARRANGEMENT OF A STAND OF TULIPS.—Our correspondent, Mr. David Barber, who asks us how to set out a bed of Tulips, will find that we have treated the subject of the arrangement of flowers for effect at some length, in another part of our present number. In reporting a stand of flowers, it is usual to commence at the left hand of the back tier and cross the stand to the right; so with the second or middle tier, and so again with the front. Following our report, our correspondent will find Mr. Lymbery's stand of twelve was arranged thus:—

Paul Pry. Biz.	Shakspeare. Biz.	Platoff Biz.	Vivid. Biz.
Queen Charlotte. Byb.	Lorenzo. Byb.	Nepaulese Prince. Byb.	Rose Blanca. Byb.
Triomphe Royale. Rose.	Comte de Vergennes Rose.	Joe Malthy. Rosa	La Vandicken. Rose.

As our correspondent is doubtless well informed as to the habit of these flowers, he will not need to be told, that, not only were all the advantages of contrast neglected by this arrangement, but the front row was composed of flowers considerably larger than those in the back tiers, and the consequence, of course, was, that flowers already small were dwarfed by being removed further from the line of sight. As a rule, Mr. Barber may determine, if he cannot pro-

duce the desiderated point, twelve blooms uniform in size, that his largest flowers should invariably be found in the back tier, gradually falling down to the smaller blooms in front, and this arrangement, with the development of the largest amount of contrast in the colours, and modes of distribution of those colours, (as a lightly marked flower contrasted with a heavier style of marking, and the contrast of rose and bizarre, and bybloemen and rose), will be the best and most effective. Having informed Mr. Barber, and possibly other cultivators, how stands of flowers are usually reported, all who are interested may, during the long winter evenings, copy out and study the arrangement of those stands we thought effective. This they may readily do, by placing the colour under the name of each, arranged in tiers as we have illustrated, and picturing in their mind's eye the habit and character of each variety. Our friends will remember the eighteen blooms are arranged in three tiers, of six in each.

I am about to form a border of Roses. My space will be twenty four yards in length, by four or four and a half in breadth. The soil is tenacious loam, resting on marl or clay, and naturally cold. I wish to have the plants on their own roots, or budded on stocks, *close* to the soil, so that I can peg down the shoots and cover the whole ground. I have recently seen plants so treated, so inimitably beautiful, that I much desire to realize their loveliness in my own garden. But unfortunately I am not in a position to obtain any statement as to the sorts which were so treated, and I recognized very few indeed. Therefore I appeal to you, trusting you will give me the desired information, or induce your correspondents, Mr. Allestree or Mr. Cranstoun, who write so charmingly on the Rose, to give it for you. I think the space will be sufficient for thirty six plants. My conditions are *perfect hardiness* (there must be no question about this, as the situation is exposed and cold), robust growth, freedom of flowering, distinct colours, well formed flowers, and perpetual in their bloom, if possible. The varieties may be as "old as the hills," if good, it will be all the same to me, but in planting I want the best, as I don't propose to change year after year. I would also prefer to grow a dozen duplicates, rather than twelve inferior sorts.

A. Z.

Will Mr. Allestree and Mr. Cranstoun, be so kind as to oblige us and our correspondent with the desired information?

Ed.

Would any Tulip cultivator give a few hints as to the best method of protecting a small bed of Tulips (say thirty rows), during the whole period of their growth and bloom? Being pinched for room, I want something to just cover the bed, and yet allow freedom of access to it.

Market Raisen.

J. R.

Will some one of our Tulip growing friends oblige us and our correspondent in this matter? Ed.

H.—We consider Carnations and Picotees are far better on a boarded stage or platform, than on sand or gravel, at this season. About the third or fourth week in December, it is advisable to plunge the pots to the rim in sand, or sand and ashes mixed.

HINTS FOR THE MONTH.

FLORISTS' FLOWERS.

AURICULAS.—These should now be at rest, so use but little water, just sufficient to keep the foliage from becoming flaccid. Although quite hardy, they should be protected from severe frosts, but, above all things, from damp, or drip from the sashes.

CALCEOLARIAS.—See to a timely removal of decayed foliage, which is apt to produce mouldiness; air, when it can be done with safety, and keep clear of greenfly.

CARNATIONS AND PICOTEES.—These should be kept thoroughly clean, and free from greenfly. Remove all injured foliage, and avoid damp as much as possible; keeping them dry to an extent beyond what is usually practised, is their great safeguard through the winter. Give air at all times. If the soil for spring potting has not already been put together, let this be done without delay, and keep it frequently turned, and exposed to the action of the frost throughout the winter. While doing this, keep a sharp look-out for wireworm.

CINERARIAS.—Strong plants for early flowering will require their final repotting, using rich but rather light soil. The plants should have plenty of room, and be kept near the glass; tie or peg out the side-shoots as they grow long enough. The general stock should have been finally repotted in October, and now will only require fumigating occasionally, with sufficient room to keep them from drawing. Sulphur the foliage, if mildew appears. Keep those intended for May and June flowering as long as possible out of the way of fire heat.

EPACRIS.—See our last. The remarks there made are applicable also to *Ericas*.

PANSIES—See that these are secure against the effects of wind, and remove decayed leaves and rubbish which may have been blown in amongst the plants. *Pansies in Pots.*—Keep these hardy, but do not over do this; exposure to high wind and severe frost will greatly injure them.

PELARGONIUMS.—The judicious administering of water at this season is of the first importance. Never give it but when

really needed: but then, of course, enough to wet the whole soil. Give the plants plenty of room, crowding them at the time when the shoots are young, or, indeed, at any time, is a sure way to spoil them. Keep as even a temperature as possible, with plenty of air. *Fancies*.—Keep these somewhat warmer than the stage varieties, and be even more cautious as regards watering.

PINKS.—The directions for Pansies, above, are applicable to these.

TULIPS.—The beds should be carefully shielded from heavy rains. In all other respects they cannot be too open.

CALENDAR OF OPERATIONS, FOR DECEMBER.

[From Rendle's Price Current and Garden Directory.]

LET all vacant ground be dug, or rather trenched and ridged. See to rotations and the proper manurings, and let all tender things have the necessary attention with regard to protection.

Continue alterations, if any to be made, without delay. Let everything be performed in the best and most effectual manner, and complete one job before another is commenced. Clear away old hotbed linings; take advantage of frosty weather for wheeling it on spare ground.

CAULIFLOWERS AND BROCCOLI, that are heading, pull, and hang up, as directed last month, for protection.

BEANS AND PEAS.—Sow a few of the early sorts, in pans or boxes, so that they may be placed under protection. These will be found useful to transplant into vacancies which may have failed through the winter.

ASPARAGUS.—Take up the required quantity of healthy roots for forcing; a vacant melon-pit is as good a place as any. Put in the bottom, leaves, tan, or any other fermenting material; on this place about six inches of vegetable mould, and plant the roots; when the shoots appear, apply a little liquid manure, with a slight addition of salt, it will assist the development of the young shoots much, and add to the flavour.

HERBS.—Mint, Tarragon, and Sorrel should be taken up and placed in heat, for early use.

RADISHES.—Short Top Frame may be sown on a light vegetable soil, under the protection of a frame.

CABBAGES.—Any that are headed should be taken up and placed thickly in rows, in spare ground, that better protection may be afforded in stormy weather.

RHUBARB AND SEA KALE.—Where room can be afforded under stages, &c., and excluded from the light, these may be forced.

FLORAL EXHIBITIONS.

TULIP SHOW.

At Mr. James Robinson's, Queens Arms Market-place, Sandbach, June 2.

Premier Prize.—Surpass Catafalque, W. Downing.

Maiden Premier Prize.—Waterloo, John Booth.

Feathered Bizarres.

- 1 Charles X., S. Longworth
- 2 Waterloo, S. Alcock
- 3 Rising Sun, S. Longworth
- 4 Charles X., S. Alcock
- 5 Charles X., S. Longworth
- 6 Charles X., S. Alcock

Flamed Bizarres.

- 1 Duke of Devonshire, S. Longworth
- 2 Ditto, ditto
- 3 San Joe, J. Cooke
- 4 Polyphemus, ditto
- 5 Dentonia, S. Alcock
- 6 Charbonnier, ditto

Feathered Byblæmens.

- 1 Bienfait, W. Downing
- 2 La Belle Narene, J. Cooke
- 3 Washington, S. Longworth
- 4 Grace Darling, ditto
- 5 Baguet, J. Booth
- 6 La Belle Narene, S. Alcock

Flamed Byblæmens.

- 1 Lawrence's Friend, G. Careless
- 2 Lady Flora Hastings, S. Alcock
- 3 Ditto, ditto
- 4 Grace Darling, S. Longworth
- 5 Washington, J. Cooke

- 6 La Belle Narene, S. Longworth

Feathered Roses.

- 1 Andromeda, S. Alcock
- 2 Lady Crewe, J. Cooke
- 3 Heroine, S. Alcock
- 4 Duc de Bronte, ditto
- 5 Aglaia, S. Longworth
- 6 Comte de Vergennes, J. Cooke

Flamed Roses.

- 1 Aglaia, W. Downing
- 2 Aglaia, S. Longworth
- 3 Lady Crewe, W. Downing
- 4 La Vandicken, S. Longworth
- 5 Lady Crewe, T. Robinson
- 6 Triomphe Royale, S. Alcock

Bizarre Breeders.

- 1 Earl of Radnor, S. Longworth
- 2 Polyphemus, ditto

Byblæmen Breeders.

- 1 Grace Darling, S. Longworth
- 2 Ditto, ditto

Rose Breeders.

- 1 Duchess of Sutherland, W. Downing
- 2 Kate Connor, S. Longworth

Selfs.

- Min d'Or, J. Cooke
- White Flag, S. Alcock

TULIP SHOW.

Held at the house of James Miller, Back Grosvenor-st., Staley Bridge, June 9.

Maiden Prizes.—1. Charles X., Amos Gartside. 2. Charles X., William Pickering. 3. Waterloo, John Lawton.

Feathered Bizarres.

- 1 Charles X., J. Barratt
- 2 Magnum Bonum, ditto
- 3 Waterloo, ditto
- 4 Lord Wellington, A. Gartside
- 5 Crown Prince, J. Lawton
- 6 Duc de Savoy, W. Pickering

Flamed Bizarres.

- 1 Lustre, T. Penkethman
- 2 Polyphemus, J. Knott
- 3 Charles X., J. Barratt
- 4 Lacantiqui, A. Gartside
- 5 San Joe, W. Pickering
- 6 Waterloo, E. Jackson

Feathered Byblæmens.

- 1 Bienfait, E. Jackson
- 2 Mango, W. Cottam
- 3 Maid of Orleans, J. Miller

- 4 Lewold, J. Barratt

- 5 Beauty, J. Miller

- 6 Lancashire Hero, T. Penk

Flamed Byblæmens.

- 1 Siam, T. Perkin
- 2 Bienfait, J. Barratt
- 3 Stockport Queen, W. Pickering
- 4 Incomparable, J. Porter
- 5 Violet Wallers, ditto
- 6 S. Magnificent, E. Jackson

Feathered Roses.

- 1 Comte de Vergennes, J. Barratt
- 2 Heroine, ditto
- 3 Village Maid, T. Penk
- 4 Andromeda, T. Perkin
- 5 Newcastle, G. Woodhead
- 6 Lady Crewe, W. Cottam

Flamed Roses.

- 1 Unique, J. Barratt
- 2 Camillus, W. Pickering
- 3 Vesta, J. Barratt
- 4 Triomphe Royale, T. Perkin
- 5 Lady Leicester, W. Cottam
- 6 Unknown, G. Woodhead

Bizarre Breeders.

- 1 Unknown, E. Jackson
- 2 Rowland Hill, M. Wilde
- 3 Surpass Catalaque, W. Pickering

Byblæmen Breeders.

- 1 Bacchus, W. Pickering
- 2 Verpoort, ditto
- 3 Unknown, W. Wood

Rose Breeders.

- 1 Lady C. Gordon, W. Pickering
- 2 Village Maid, J. Knott
- 3 Lord Derby, J. Miller

Selfs.

- Min d'Or, T. Penk
White Perfection, W. Cottam

TULIP SHOW.

Held at the Petres Arms Inn, Holtmill, June 9.

Premier Prize (extra kettle)—R. Birtwistle, Charles X. Kettles—T. Gibson, Charles X.; J. Houliker, Charles X.; W. Broughton, Bienfait; I Hadfield, Lord Rancilffe; E. Hodgson, Lady Middleton; T. Chippendale, Rebecca.

Feathered Bizarres.

- 1 Charles X., T. Gibson
- 2 Waterloo, W. Broughton
- 3 Paganini, J. Houliker
- 4 Truth, E. Hodgson
- 5 Surpass Catalaque, I. Hadfield
- 6 Trafalgar, W. Broughton
- 7 Duc de Savoy, ditto

Flamed Bizarres.

- 1 Charles X., T. Gibson
- 2 Truth, W. Broughton
- 3 San Joe, T. Gibson
- 4 Charbonnier, J. Houliker
- 5 Lustre, W. Broughton
- 6 Duke of Devonshire, T. Gibson
- 7 Pilot, ditto

Feathered Byblæmens.

- 1 Lewold, I. Hadfield
- 2 Bienfait, ditto
- 3 Ambassador, T. Gibson
- 4 Buckley's Beauty, I. Hadfield
- 5 Baguet, ditto
- 6 Lawrence's Friend, ditto
- 7 La Belle Narene, H. Earnshaw

Flamed Byblæmens.

- 1 Bienfait, T. Gibson
- 2 Roscius, E. Hodgson
- 3 Incomparable, R. Birtwistle

- 4 Pucilla de Dart, R. Birtwistle
- 5 Baguet, J. Houliker
- 6 La Belle Narene, R. Birtwistle
- 7 Violet Alexander, J. Houliker

Feathered Roses.

- 1 Comte de Vergennes, T. Gibson
- 2 Lady Middleton, I. Hadfield
- 3 La Belle Nanette, W. Broughton
- 4 Unknown, E. Hodgson
- 5 Hero of the Nile, T. Gibson
- 6 Dolittle, W. Broughton
- 7 Newcastle, E. Hodgson

Flamed Roses.

- 1 Aglaia, E. Hodgson
- 2 Triomphe Royale, T. Gibson
- 3 Rose Unique, R. Birtwistle
- 4 La Vandicken, W. Broughton
- 5 Lady Middleton, T. Chippendale
- 6 Rose Veste, T. Gibson
- 7 Vainqueur, W. Broughton

Breeders.

- Seedling (Biz.), J. Houliker
Roland (Byb.), W. Broughton
Andromeda (Rose), ditto

Selfs.

- Min d'Or, W. Broughton
White Perfection, ditto

TULIP SHOW.

Held at the house of Mr. W. Emow, the Red Gate Inn, near Longton, Staffordshire Potteries, June 9.

Pans.—1. Magnum Bonum, Capt. White, Countess of Flanders, Duchess de Modena, Comte de Vergennes, and Aglaia, A. Shaw. 2. Charles X., Polyphemus, Countess of Flanders, Blæmart, Comte de Vergennes, Aglaia, E. Poulson. 3. Charles X., Rising Sun, Purple Pefection, Lord Denman, Amella, Triomphe Royale, A. Hollinshead. 4. Magnum Bonum, Charles X., Maid of Orleans, Princess Royal, Comte de Vergennes, Aglaia, S. Mountford. 5. Omar Pacha, Polyphemus, Maid of Orleans, Princess Royal, Comte de Vergennes, Aglaia, S. Mountford. 6. Rising Sun, Polyphemus, Maid of Orleans, Maid of Orleans, Lady Jane Grey, Heroine, D. Brown. 7. Magnum Bonum, Rising Sun, Baguet, Baguet, Heroine, Aglaia, T. Boot. 8. Magnum Bonum, Polyphemus, Violet Wallers, Princess Royal, Triomphe

Royale, Triomphe Royale, T. Hollins. 9. Charles X., Pass Catafalque, Baguet, Princess Royal, Heroine, Aglaia, T. Forester

Feathered Bizarres.

- 1 Magnum Bonum, A. Hollinshead
- 2 Ditto, ditto
- 3 Rising Sun, ditto
- 4 Charles X., A. Shaw
- 5 Rufus, A. Hollinshead
- 6 Polyphemus, A. Shaw
- 7 St. Lewis, A. Hollinshead

Flamed Bizarres.

- 1 Polyphemus, A. Shaw
- 2 Seedling, E. Poulson
- 3 Charbonnier, ditto
- 4 Polyphemus, A. Shaw
- 5 Pass Catafalque, ditto
- 6 Poilet, ditto
- 7 Sans Egal, ditto

Feathered Byblæmens.

- 1 Violet Amiable, A. Hollinshead
- 2 Lawrence's Friend, E. Poulson
- 3 Countess of Flanders, A. Shaw
- 4 Violet Quarto, ditto
- 5 David, A. Hollinshead
- 6 Augustus Rex, A. Shaw
- 7 Grotius, ditto

Flamed Byblæmens.

- 1 Alexander Magnus, E. Poulson
- 2 Princess Royal, ditto
- 3 Bijou, A. Shaw
- 4 Venus, E. Poulson

- 5 Lord Brougham, A. Hollinshead
- 6 Unknown, D. Brown
- 7 Bacchus, E. Poulson

Feathered Roses.

- 1 Amelia, A. Hollinshead
- 2 Comte de Vergennes, A. Shaw
- 3 Lady Douro, ditto
- 4 Heroine, T. Boot
- 5 Unknown, E. Poulson
- 6 Grand Rose Imperial, D. Brown
- 7 Seedling, A. Shaw

Flamed Roses.

- 1 Triomphe Royale, A. Hollinshead
- 2 Aglaia, D. Brown
- 3 Claudiana, E. Poulson
- 4 Chellaston, A. Shaw
- 5 Camuse, W. Emony
- 6 Camillus, S. Mountford
- 7 Triomphe Royale, A. Hollinshead

Bizarre Breeders.

- 1 Seedling
- 2 Polyphemus, D. Brown

Byblæmen Breeders.

- 1 Sancta Sophia, A. Shaw
- 2 Venus, D. Brown

Rose Breeders.

- 1 Lady Catherine Gordon, A. Shaw
- 2 Seedling, D. Brown

TULIP SHOW.

Held at the house of Mr. Nelson Warren, Snipe Tavern, Pleasure Gardens, Manchester-road, Ashton-under-Lyne, Lancashire, June 9.

Judges.—Messrs. R. Taylor, Gladwick; J. Wood and W. Matthey, Ashton.

Maiden Prizes.—1. T. Mellor, Charles X. 2. W. Garside, Charles X.

Feathered Bizarres.

- 1 Charles X., T. Leech
- 2 Apelles, J. Dicken
- 3 Magnum Bonum, T. Leech
- 4 Surpass Catafalque, H. B. Cowburn
- 5 Paul Pry, S. Stopford
- 6 Trafalgar, G. Chadwick
- 7 Lacantique, W. Chadwick
- 8 Royal Gem, J. Haigh

Flamed Bizarres.

- 1 Abercromby, J. Newton
- 2 Lustre, S. Cock, sen.
- 3 Polyphemus, T. Leech
- 4 William Tell, A. Leech
- 5 Albion, J. Newton
- 6 Cyclops, ditto
- 7 Charles X., T. Moss
- 8 Pilot, T. Schofield

Feathered Byblæmens.

- 1 Bienfait, T. Leech
- 2 Beauty, J. Haigh
- 3 Baguet, T. Leech
- 4 Glory, J. Haigh
- 5 Lancashire Hero, J. Newton
- 6 Sir H. Pottinger, J. Dicken

- 7 Violet Amiable, T. Mellor
- 8 Incomparable, J. Haigh

Flamed Byblæmens.

- 1 Bacchus, A. Leech
- 2 Diana Bruin, W. Chadwick
- 3 Ashtonian, S. Cock, sen.
- 4 Violet Wallers, A. Leech
- 5 Chellaston, J. Newton
- 6 Roi de Siam, T. Schofield
- 7 Incomparable, S. Stopford
- 8 Superb en Noir, J. Newton

Feathered Roses.

- 1 Lady Crewe, J. Newton
- 2 Heroine, H. B. Cowburn
- 3 Duchess of Newcastle, T. Mellor
- 4 Comte, J. Dicken
- 5 Dolittle, T. Moss
- 6 Aglaia, J. Moss
- 7 Unknown, G. Chadwick
- 8 Lady Moseley, F. Warren, sen.

Flamed Roses.

- 1 Rose Unique, J. Haigh
- 2 Rose Vesta, J. Newton
- 3 Triomphe Royale, J. Wild
- 4 Rose Camillus, W. Chadwick

- 5 Rose Celestial, J. Haigh
- 6 Lady C. Gordon, W. Chadwick
- 7 Aglaia, A. Leech
- 8 Vainqueur, J. Dicken
- Bizarre Breeders.*
- 1 Earl Radnor, J. Hollinsworth
- 2 Duke of Hamilton, T. Moss
- 3 Elizabeth, S. Stopford
- 4 Ambition, S. Shawcross
- 5 Duke of Devonshire, J. Haigh
- 6 Surpass Catafalque, H. B. Cowburn
- Bybloemen Breeders.*
- 1 Godet Parfait, J. Newton
- 2 Sancta Sophia, T. Mellor
- 3 Catherine, A. Leech
- 4 Verpoort, S. Stopford

- 5 Pindarus, J. Newton
- 6 Unknown, H. B. Cowburn
- Rose Breeders.*
- 1 Alice, T. Leech
- 2 Lady Crewe, H. B. Cowburn
- 3 Duchess of Newcastle, G. Chadwick
- 4 Lady Stanley, A. Leech
- 5 Andromeda, J. Haigh
- 6 Village Maid, ditto
- Yellow Selfs.*
- 1 Min d'Or, T. Moss
- 2 King of Yellows, W. Chadwick
- White Selfs.*
- 1 White Flag, J. Haigh
- 2 White Perfection, A. Leech

TULIP SHOW.

Held at the house of Mr. T. Moss, the Grapes Inn, Church street, Ashton-under-Lyne, June 11.

Judges.—Messrs. William Lambert and George Holland, Stockport; William Hall, Gorton.

Maiden Prizes.—1. Charles X., T. Mellor. 2. Surpass Catafalque, W. Garside. The premium for the best feathered flower, Heroine, J. Hilton; the best flamed flower, Rose Unique, W. Wooler.

Feathered Bizarres.

- 1 Sir Sidney Smith, J. Wood
- 2 Charles X., T. Mellor
- 3 Surpass Catafalque, W. Garside
- 4 Elizabeth, W. Wooler
- 5 Royal Gem, T. Mellor
- 6 Old Dutch Catafalque, W. Wooler
- 7 Lord Lilford, J. Buckley
- 8 Crown Prince, J. Haigh

Flamed Bizarres.

- 1 Polyphemus, W. Wooler
- 2 Cyclops, J. Newton
- 3 Surpass Catafalque, W. Wooler
- 4 Lustre, T. Moss
- 5 Abercomby, J. Haigh
- 6 Albion, S. Shawcross
- 7 Cato, J. Hilton
- 8 Unknown, W. Garside

Feathered Bybloemens.

- 1 Bienfait, J. Lunn
- 2 Washington, S. Shawcross
- 3 Violet Amiable, B. Haigh
- 4 Baguet, J. Newton
- 5 Beauty, J. Lunn
- 6 Princess Royal, J. Buckley
- 7 La Belle Narene, J. Newton
- 8 Lawrence's Friend, J. Hilton

Flamed Bybloemens.

- 1 Ashtonian, J. Buckley
- 2 Alexander Magnus, J. Newton
- 3 Unknown, ditto
- 4 Queen Charlotte, W. Chadwick
- 5 Fair Flora, J. Newton
- 6 Van Amburgh, J. Buckley
- 7 Beauty, R. Taylor
- 8 Bacchus, W. Chadwick

Feathered Roses.

- 1 Heroine, J. Hilton
- 2 Newcastle, J. Newton

- 8 Lady Crewe, W. Chadwick
- 4 Jupiter, ditto
- 5 Walworth, G. Davis
- 6 Hero of the Nile, W. Chadwick
- 7 Lady Gray, J. Haigh
- 8 Dolittle, T. Moss

Flamed Roses.

- 1 Rose Unique, W. Wooler
- 2 Vainqueur, T. Mellor
- 3 Vesta, J. Yarewood
- 4 Aglaia, ditto
- 5 Anastasia, W. Chadwick
- 6 Triomphe Royale, T. Moss
- 7 Rose Guerrier, J. Buckley
- 8 Lord Hill, J. Dickens

Bizarre Breeders.

- 1 Lord Darnley, John Hilton
- 2 Polyphemus, James Hilton
- 3 Surpass Catafalque, J. Haigh
- 4 Duke of Hamilton, T. Mellor
- 5 Seedling, J. Warren
- 6 Truth, John Hilton

Bybloemen Breeders.

- 1 Sancta Sophia, J. Newton
- 2 Verpoort, W. Chadwick
- 3 Gibbons, J. Wild
- 4 Van Amburgh, W. Wooler
- 5 Maid of Orleans, T. Moss
- 6 Roi de Slam, J. Wood

Rose Breeders.

- 1 Rose Celestial, J. Wood
- 2 Lord Derby, W. Wooler
- 3 Queen of England, J. Warren
- 4 Lady Stanley, J. Newton
- 5 Lady Crewe, W. Chadwick
- 6 Lady C. Gordon, W. Chadwick

Selfs.

- Min d'Or, T. Moss
- White Perfection, G. Broadbent

WORTLEY AMATEUR GARDENERS' SOCIETY.

June 14.

TULIPS.

Feathered Bizarres.

1 Sovereign, E. Schofield

2 Ditto, ditto

3 Sovereign, J. Cliff

4 Sovereign, E. Schofield

Flamed Bizarres.

1 Pilot, J. Cliff

2 Polyphemus, E. Schofield

3 Ditto, ditto

4 Abercromby, J. Cliff

Feathered Byblæmens.

1 Baguet, E. Schofield

2 Ditto, ditto

3 La Belle Narene, J. Hebden

4 La Belle Narene, J. Cliff

Flamed Byblæmens.

1 Orleans, J. Cliff

2 Alexander Magnus, E. Schofield

3 Orleans, J. Cliff

4 Ditto, ditto

Feathered Roses.

1 Count, J. Cliff

2 Vesta, E. Schofield

3 Walworth, J. Cliff

4 Heroine, ditto

Flamed Roses.

1 Triomphe Royale, E. Schofield

2 Triomphe Royale, S. Schofield

3 Triomphe Royale, E. Schofield

4 Ditto, ditto

Breeders.

1 Orleans, J. Cliff

2 Gibbons's No. 12, ditto

3 Orleans, ditto

4 Ditto, ditto

August 22.

Judges.—Messrs. W. Dobbins, J. Rhodes, and T. Benn.

CARNATIONS.

Scarlet Bizarres.

1 Admiral Curzon, J. Cliff

2 Ditto, ditto

3 Admiral Curzon, J. Hebden

4 Admiral Curzon, S. Schofield

Pink Bizarres.

1 Milton, S. Schofield

2 Milton, E. Schofield

3 Ditto, ditto

4 Milton, S. Schofield

Scarlet Flakes.

1 Marquis of Granby, J. Cliff

2 Marquis of Granby, E. Schofield

3 Marquis of Granby, E. Schofield

4 Marquis of Granby, J. Cliff

Purple Flakes.

1 Earl Spencer, J. Cliff

2 Beauty of Woodhouse, E. Schofield

3 Beauty of Woodhouse, S. Schofield

4 Lord Byron, J. Cliff

Rose Flakes.

1 Lorenzo, J. Cliff

2 Lovely Ann, S. Schofield

3 Lovely Ann, E. Schofield

4 Ditto, ditto

PICOTEES.

Purple.

1 Meg Merrilles, J. Cliff

2 Gatliff's Regina, E. Schofield

3 Rutland, J. Cliff

4 Gatliff's Regina, E. Schofield

Red.

1 Prince of Wales, E. Schofield

2 Bellona, J. Cliff

3 Mrs. Barnard, S. Schofield

4 Prince of Wales, E. Schofield

Premier Prizes.—1. Admiral Curzon, J. Cliff. 2. Lorenzo, J. Cliff.

TULIP SHOW.

At the house of Mr. T. Hollins, the Sutherland Arms, Longton, June 16.

Pans.—1. Pass Catafalque, Polyphemus, Grace Darling, Charlotte, Heroine, Aglala, A. Shaw. 2. Magnum Bonum, Prince of the Netherlands, Victoria Regina, Princess Royal, Comte, Amelia, E. Poulson. 3. Rising Sun, Polyphemus, Samson, Alexander Magnus, Rose unknown, Triomphe Royal, A. Hollinshead. 4. Charles X., Polyphemus, Maid of Orleans, Princess Royal, Comte, Triomphe Royale, S. Mountford. 5. Charles X., Charles X., Samson, Princess Royal, Comte, Aglala, W. Emory. 6. Magnum Bonum, Charles X., Orleans, Princess Royal, Heroine, Triomphe Royale, T. Hollins.

Maiden Pan.—Charles X., Polyphemus, Countess of Flanders, Orleans Princess Royal, Triomphe Royale, Triomphe Royale, T. Forester.

Feathered Bizarres.

- 1 Magnum Bonum, A. Shaw
- 2 Charles X., ditto
- 3 Old Dutch Catafalque, ditto
- 4 Charbonnier, ditto
- 5 Polyphemus, ditto
- 6 Rufus, ditto

Flamed Bizarres.

- 1 Polyphemus, E. Poulson
- 2 Don Cossack, A. Shaw
- 3 Duke of Devonshire, ditto
- 4 King of Safon, W. Emony
- 5 Charles X., E. Poulson
- 6 Rubens, A. Shaw

Feathered Bybloemens.

- 1 Maid of Orleans, A. Shaw
- 2 Ditto, ditto
- 3 Partout, ditto
- 4 Markgraft, W. Emony
- 5 Duchess of Flanders, A. Shaw
- 6 Chellaston, ditto

Flamed Bybloemens.

- 1 Violet Wallers, W. Emony

- 2 Violet Wallers, A. Shaw
- 3 Lord Denman, ditto
- 4 Princess Royal, W. Emony
- 5 Siam, A. Shaw
- 6 Chellaston, ditto

Feathered Roses.

- 1 Amelia, A. Shaw
- 2 Bion, ditto
- 3 Arlette, ditto
- 4 Aglala, ditto
- 5 Rowena, E. Poulson
- 6 Heroine, W. Emony

Flamed Roses.

- 1 Aglala, A. Shaw
- 2 Triomphe Royale, W. Emony
- 3 Mason's Matilda, A. Shaw
- 4 Triomphe Royale, ditto
- 5 Village Maid, ditto
- 6 Alexander du Roy, ditto

Breeders.

- Lord Melbourne (B.z.), A. Shaw
Maid of Orleans (Byb.), ditto
Magnificent (Rose), ditto

PINK SHOW.

The united Pink growers of Sheffield held their annual meeting, at the house of Mr. Thomas Oxley, the Three Stags' Heads, on Monday, July 9, when the prizes were awarded as follows:—

Young Growers' Kettles.—1. Mango, J. Gill. 2. Mango, W. Green, jun. 3. Mango, J. Smith.

Purple-lace Cup.—Mango, W. Crossley | Red-lace Cup.—Sturge, A. Knutt
Black and White Cup.—Snowball, J. Smith.

Purple-laced.

Premier.—Mango, W. Crossley

- 1 Mango, W. Green, sen.
- 2 Greensides, H. Bateman
- 3 Airdale Beauty, J. Powell
- 4 Coronation, W. Green, sen.
- 5 Attraction, W. Mason
- 6 Surplice, C. Oxley
- 7 Jenny Lind, W. Green, sen.
- 8 Huntsman, H. Barker
- 9 Alice, W. Powell

Red-laced.

Premier.—Sturge, W. Green jun.

- 1 Sturge, J. Powell
- 2 Dan O'Rourke, T. Oxley
- 3 Susanna, H. Barker
- 4 Baron, ditto
- 5 Jane, A. Knutt
- 6 Lady Antrobus, T. Oxley

- 7 Stockwell, W. Powell
- 8 Little Wonder, F. Reynolds
- 9 Sir William, ditto

Black and White.

Premier.—Beauty of Home, W. Mason

- 1 Lady Frost, A. Knutt
- 2 Kay's Marv, W. Mason
- 3 Beauty of Blackburn, A. Knutt
- 4 Beauty of Clayton, H. Bateman
- 5 Beauty of Home, H. Howell
- 6 Virgin Queen, H. Bateman
- 7 Broom Girl, A. Knutt
- 8 Blackeyed Susan, H. Howell
- 9 Lady Boldhaughton, W. Green, sen.

Seedlings.

- 1 Miss Sarah, A. Knutt
- 2 Mrs. Knutt, ditto
- 3 Little Knutt, ditto

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THE
MIDLAND FLORIST,
AND
SUBURBAN HORTICULTURIST.

VOL. X.

JANUARY TO DECEMBER, 1856.

“ To study culture, and with artful toil,
To meliorate and tame the stubborn soil ;
To give dissimilar, yet fruitful lands,
The grain, or herb, or plant that each demands ;
To cherish virtue in an humble state,
And share the joys your bounty may create ;
To mark the matchless workings of the power
That shuts within its seed the future flower ;
Bids these in form of elegance excel,
In colour these, and those delight the smell ;
Sends nature forth, the daughter of the skies,
To dance on earth, and charm all human eyes ;
To teach the canvass innocent deceit,
Or lay the landscape on the snowy sheet.—
These, these are arts pursued without a crime,
That leave no stain upon the wing of time.”

COWPER.

LONDON:
SIMPKIN, MARSHALL, & CO., STATIONERS' HALL COURT.

1856.

THE
MIDLAND FLORIST.

ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MIDLAND FLORIST.

SIR,—I note with much pleasure the announcement in your last number, and I am sure that the significant notice there given, of an intention to carry on the work so as to merit the continued support of its readers, will be very agreeable to the numerous south country florists to whom it has become an absolute necessity, and who would extremely regret its discontinuance, or, which would be as bad, the loss of its independent character.

A work like the *Midland Florist*,—published in a midland county, and fairly representing the doings and opinions of the earnest and active florists of that district, must always be acceptable to those engaged in the same pursuit, in distant localities, and particularly in London, where an eager desire is felt to hear of, and, if possible, to obtain, whatever of new

and good may be produced in other parts of the country. But the utility of such a work would be greatly impaired, if not wholly destroyed, should a suspicion arise that other interests than those of the floral public were consulted in its pages, or that external influences of any kind were brought to bear upon its management. The only monthly floral periodical published in the metropolis, whatever may be its literary merits, or the acknowledged beauty of its illustrations, can certainly make no claim to that independence which alone could give authority to its opinions, and it would be a source of great regret if the *Midland Florist* should be permitted to drift into the wake of that publication, or degenerate into its humble echo.

I accept the notice referred to as an indication that this will not be suffered to take place, but that an independent organ will still be preserved to the

AMATEUR FLORIST.

6th December, 1855.



THE CAMELLIA.

PROPAGATION.

THESE winter roses of the year, reminding us by their size and colour of our long-since perished summer ones of the garden, are (although not gifted with scent like these old friends of ours) endowed with a beauty all their own. Favourites they are and ever will be. Even in their native home of the far east, where they attain the size and height of lofty trees, and where each one must make a splendid item in the landscape, they cannot be more prized than here, where colder skies compel them to a smaller growth, insignificant and dwarfish, it is true, but where they still bloom and display to our admiring gaze, living circles of brilliant coloured soft waxlike petals. The durability of

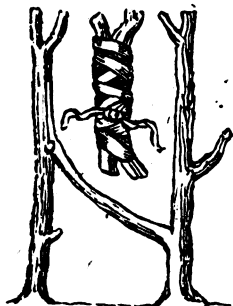
these flowers is not their least recommendation, and this, with their acknowledged and striking beauty, will ever give the *Camellia* pre-eminence in the winter bouquet. In how many brilliant evening parties are not its white or crimson blossoms shown, nestled close among its dark glossy leaves, we will not say "the fairest of the fair," but certainly the fair among the fairest. The *Camellia* was first introduced into England in 1742, and its varieties have so increased, not only by importation from its native clime, but also from its cultivation at home, that we now possess upwards of two hundred varieties, distinct from each other either in shape, size, or colour; and indeed none of our greenhouses, even the humblest, are without some variety of this splendid exotic.



Cleft-grafting the *Camellia*.

The means of propagation of the *Camellia* usually adopted are grafting, inarching, and budding, all of which operations should be performed in spring. The most successful mode of grafting the *Camellia* is thus described by Mrs. Loudon, in one of her recent works, and is generally known as cleft-grafting. The head of the stock is cut off close to a leaf which has a strong, healthy bud on its axil. The cut is made sloping upwards to the leaf, and on the preservation of this leaf and bud a great part of the success of the operation depends. The stock is then split in face of this leaf and bud to a depth equal to two-thirds of its thickness, and the scion, which has been previously cut with a sharp knife into the shape of a wedge, terminating in a narrow point, is inserted. The heart of the scion stock and that of the scion are united as closely as possible, and the two are tied firmly together; the wound in the scion, where the head was cut off, being covered with pitch, to prevent the possibility of any moisture entering

the wood, though no pitch is allowed to touch the point of partition between the scion and the stock, lest it should prevent the uniting of the bark. As soon as the operation is finished, the pots containing the stocks must be plunged into a bed of tan, lukewarm if it be in spring, and hot if it be in winter, and covered over closely with a mat or hand-glass. The glasses ought to be taken off every second day, and wiped, as too much humidity will make the young plants damp off, and the glasses may even be left off for an hour or two, if the plants appear too moist. As soon as the graft has taken, the leaf and bud of the stock, above the insertion of the scion, which were left to draw up the sap, are cut off, and it is then in a state to be removed to the greenhouse.



The scion inarched to the stock.

bark is then removed from each, and the two, after being properly fitted, are firmly united by a bandage and a little prepared clay. After remaining in this state for about eight weeks, the scion should be gently detached from its parent, with a sharp knife, leaving it to be supported by the stock to which it has been inarched. When the stocks have done growing, they should be cut down to the part where the two are united. Frequently Camellias are inarched from a small branch, the lower part of which is immersed in a phial of water, instead of being connected with its parent, and this is done in the same manner as described; but care

must be taken to frequently remove the scion from the water, and after cutting off a small portion of its lower extremity, replace it. This plan should only be adopted where it is not practicable to bring the stock and variety together, as the union, in this case, cannot always be depended upon. If the stock has been cut down, a bud should be left at its highest point, to draw up the sap towards the graft.

Budding is performed precisely as in the rose, and should be done early in the spring, and the plants kept in a pit, or hotbed, till their growth has terminated.

Camellias are also raised by cuttings, but as this way is uncertain and dilatory, we cannot recommend it to our readers.

New varieties are raised from seed only, but as the cold atmosphere of our climate will not favour its ripening, the quantity produced is so small that new varieties are always hailed with delight by the floricultural world. The seed, of course, can only be procured from single and semidoable varieties.



Inarching, with the scion partly nourished by a phial of water.

LINNÆUS.

WINTER TREATMENT.

JUDICIOUSLY managed, this noble and beautiful shrub may be made to bloom from December to the latter end of March, or even the beginning of April. A great deal of disappointment is often, however, experienced by the amateur grower; the complaint being that the bloom buds drop off, and there are many different opinions as to the cause. For many years I have been a successful grower of this beautiful and attractive exotic, and I venture to give the readers of the *Midland Florist* my mode of treatment.

At this dull season, till it blooms, little is to be done besides giving air, which should always be admitted through the top lights of the greenhouse, as the cold winds through the side lights are very injurious to the buds.

The great secret of the fall of the buds of the *Camellia* is the improper amount of water administered to the plant; indeed, one of the nicest points the amateur has to contend with is to understand the exact quantity required. I only give just sufficient to keep the ball of earth damp, and that only when between dry and damp. Never give so much water as to cause the plant to be water-logged, as this is a certain cause of failure. As soon as I see a plant too wet, I turn it bottom upwards, and, holding it in this position, put three pieces of crock in the ball, and replace the pot as before. The water should be of the same temperature as the atmosphere of the house in which the plants grow.

About the middle of March, the plants will show signs of vigorous growth, and will require removal into pots one size larger. The soil I find best suited for this purpose is a barrowful of yellow loam from a rich pasture, taken four inches thick, which has been laid up twelve months, mixed with a barrowful of turfy peat; well chop up the compost, and, in using, add a portion of Trent, or river sand.

After the plants have thus been removed, they will require a warmer situation, a moist atmosphere, and plenty of water at the roots, keeping the stems damp. This treatment sometimes causes shoots to break from the naked stem, which is so desirable. Keep up a medium growth till bloom buds are formed. This will ensure a fine show of bloom buds for the ensuing year.

The following varieties are worthy of the attention of every grower:—*Henri Favre*, *Landrethii*, *Duchess d'Orleans*, *Prince Albert*, *Old Double White*, *Old Double Striped*, *Imbricata*, and *Imbricata alba*.

T. W.

THE CHRYSANTHEMUM.

At this dull season of the year, I know of no flower that claims more the attention of the amateur than the chrysanthemum. The rich display of blooms at a season when most other flowering plants are at rest, alone enhances its interest to the lovers of flowers. The long acquaintance I have had with this favourite flower enables me to offer a few observations on its culture, and in so doing, I shall be as brief as possible. First is the soil, which should be a mellow turfy loam, from nine to twelve months old, and well mixed with a small portion of sand. As soon as the plants have done blooming, and made growth two or three joints above the soil, take off side shoots, with a portion of root attached, and provide three-inch pots, putting some crocks in each, for drainage. The soil and pots ready, fill the pots with soil, and put one cutting in each pot. I prefer this to more, as the roots are better balanced, and have not so soon to be disturbed by repotting. There are various opinions as to the best place in which to strike the cuttings; my practice is to place them in a cold frame, or a cool greenhouse. Either is preferable to heat, as heat causes them to grow weakly, and instead of fine bold well-shaped plants, they would be weak and leggy, with one-sided flowers, which hang their heads so that the centre is partly hid. Use no heat. By the beginning of March, if all has gone on well, the plants will be rooted and ready for potting off into six-inch pots. The soil best suited for this, is one-third yellow loam, laid up twelve months; one-third half-rotted turf, laid up eight months; and one-third good old manure. Add as much Trent drifted sand, at the time of using, as will make it porous. Having prepared the soil, and well drained the six-inch pots with crocks, care must be taken not to disturb the fibrous roots in the removal. This being done, place the plants out of doors, plunged, in an open situation, exposed

to the sun, and away from all drip of trees, and put tiles under the pots, to keep out worms, and prevent the roots growing into the ground. Frequently turn them, in order to balance their shape. About the middle of June, the plants will be ready for their final remove into the blooming pots, and I would recommend three and four-pint pots for this. I have often made remarks on the pots best adapted to small selections, in Notts. and the neighbourhood, and my impression is, that three to four-pint pots are by far the neatest, in small houses. Nothing takes away more from the uniformity of a small collection of plants, than a peck here and there, with pints beside them. Where is the taste in such unevenness? Uniformity and neatness go hand in hand in good plant culture. The soil for the last potting should be the same as the second, but coarser chopped. After the final shift into the blooming pots, the plants must be again plunged in the same or a similar situation, fully exposed to the sun, with a tile at the bottom of each pot. Turn the plants as recommended above, and as the season of growth advances, give a liberal supply of water, and never allow them to want it.

T. W.

A FEW OF THE BEST CHRYSANTHEMUMS.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <i>Hermione</i> .—White, tipped with rose. | <i>Versailles Defiance</i> .—Clear rose. |
| <i>Zephyr</i> .—Red and orange. | <i>Pio Nono</i> .—Dark red. |
| <i>Albin</i> .—Deep marone. | <i>Annie Sälter</i> .—Fine yellow. |
| <i>Eclipse</i> .—Sulphur. | <i>Princess Marie</i> .—Rose and white. |
| <i>Le Prophete</i> .—Golden yellow. | <i>Prince Jerome</i> .—Orange and brown. |
| <i>Conspicuum</i> .—Bright rose. | <i>Cassy</i> .—Dark orange and red |
| <i>The Queen</i> .—White. | <i>Astre du Matin</i> .—Lilac anemone. |
| <i>Rollo</i> .—Silvery lilac. | <i>Triomphe du Nord</i> .—Large light red. |
| <i>Aregina</i> .—Dark crimson. | <i>Antigone</i> .—White. |
| <i>Auguste Mie</i> .—Chestnut, edged with gold. | <i>Chevalier Damage</i> .—Golden |
| <i>Gluck</i> .—Golden anemone. | <i>Scarlet Gem</i> . |
| <i>Mrs. Coombs</i> .—White anemone. | |
| <i>Trilby</i> .—White, yellow centre. | |

POMPONS.

Riquiqui.—Violet plum.
Brilliant.—Bright chestnut red.
Madame Vatry.—Pale lilac.
Bob.—Dark brown.
La Vogue.—Golden yellow.
Zebra.—Carmine and white.
Nemesis.—Bright buff.
Polichonne.—Sulphur, curiously mottled with orange.
Berrol.—Pale yellow.
Dr. Duval.—Red Salmon.
Comte Vigier.—Silvery blush.

Perte du Pardo.—Rose blush.
Helene.—Dark rose.
Marabout.—Fringed, white.
Adonis.—Mottled rose.
President Decaisne.—Carmine and white.
Cedo Nulli.—Cream white and white.
Bijou d'Horticulture.—Sulphur white.
Jonas.—Bronzed rose.

PANSIES "BEAUTY" AND "MISS TALBOT."

IN your number for December I perceive Mr. Oswald's reply to my criticism of Pansy Beauty, and would wish you to insert the following short explanation:—

In spring, I procured two plants of Beauty, which I propagated, and grew the whole season, and, during that time, never cut a flower for a competing stand. Mr. Oswald must have been mistaken in stating Kilmarnock to be comparatively isolated, for we have plenty of railway accommodation, and the fares are not so high but that we can sometimes visit our brother florists. Mr. Oswald, to confirm his criticism, appeals to Messrs. Wood and Turner for support, but he must be well aware that there is a great difference between a few good flowers sent for opinion, and growing a variety for a whole season. If your readers will refer to page 85, vol. 9, of the *Midland Florist*, and compare the description given by the National Floricultural Society with that of Mr. Oswald, they will find them to differ materially.

Miss Talbot requires no defence from me,—she defends herself. At the Scottish Pansy Society's exhibition, held in June, 1854, Miss Talbot was the best light ground pansy in the room; and if your readers will turn to page 356 of the same volume, they will find that Miss Talbot was in six out of

the seven first prize stands, at the same society's exhibition, in September last, and Beauty was not included in any one of them. But, after all, Mr. Oswald seems to draw in a little; for, instead of repeating that Beauty is the queen of the light ground flowers, he now states that it is one of the best six. This differs but little from me;—I classed it as one of the best seven, but last of the seven.

S.

Kilmarnock, Dec. 7, 1855.

CINERARIAS.

I FORWARD you memoranda of some of the best new and old Cinerarias which have come under my observation during the last season, and as there are some lovers of this charming plant in the midland counties, I trust they may be of service to them.

NEW VARIETIES.

Optima (Bonser) is certainly the most attractive. Clear white, with medium margin of intense blue; dark disk, fine form, good habit.

Lady Paxton is a gem. White, with a broad margin of deep lilac purple; dark disk, form and habit excellent.

Sir C. Napier is decidedly the best blue.

Optima (Hopwood).—White, with a broad margin of rosy crimson.

OLDER VARIETIES.

Picturata.—White, with a broad margin of bright rosy purple. One of the very best in cultivation.

Mrs. Sidney Herbert is unrivalled in its class. White, with a delicate rose margin; pretty habit.

Amy Robsart is not yet surpassed in its colour. Rosy lilac, dark disk.

Kate Kearney.—The best white.

Prince Arthur.—Best crimson.

Formosa is a good variety. Violet purple, with a white disk; good form and dwarf habit.

Loveliness.—Rose crimson, with a white ring round the disk; form good.

Rosy Morn.—A very attractive flower in a collection. Crimson, with a white ring round the disk.

EXTRACTS, HINTS, AND RECOLLECTIONS.

WINTERING FLORISTS' FLOWERS.

THERE is little necessity for reminding our readers that the winter of 1854 and 1855 has been remarkably severe and prolonged, and such a winter as florists have not encountered for many years. In the course of a recent run through the north of England and Scotland, we noticed its terrible influence on Pinks, Pansies, and other florists' flowers wintered out of doors, and in no instance whatever did we see a healthy bed of either flower, but the reverse of this, as all seemed to be, if not totally destroyed, at least greatly injured. It is our purpose now to note the position of our own beds here at Slough, and to offer in all kindness a few remarks on the inefficient means—as we venture to think them—taken by our northern friends for the preservation of their flowers during winter.

PINKS.

In the course of the summer, we turn the ground up roughly where they are to be planted, and at the time of planting, we dig in a good dressing of well-decayed manure. In September, well rounded beds, four feet wide, are prepared, *the centre of which should be eight inches above the path*. We then plant, each row across the bed being formed in this manner, by nine plants, placed in a triangular form,—

* * *

Bed No. 1.—Nine Plants of New Criterion.

* * *

Bed No. 2.—Nine Plants of Colchester Cardinal.

by which means, one stick, marked thus ●, serves for three plants, *and one glass for three plants also*. Each bed is thus occupied by six long rows, each outside row being six inches from the edge of the bed. Of course any plants that are rather "leggy" are secured by simply placing two small pieces of stick against them, to prevent their being blown about and broken by the wind. We have now three "blooming beds," *i. e.*, with plants for blooming for exhibition and other purposes, containing upwards of fifteen hundred healthy plants, and we lost but *four plants* from these beds during the whole of the winter, and we are quite certain that not more than a hundred plants were lost out of a nursery stock of ten thousand plants. *This is to be attributed entirely to planting them on raised beds, and securing them from injury by wind*; for, during the past winter, for instance, there has been as much frost and snow in the south as in the north. A few sorts, such as Colchester Cardinal, Optima, Criterion, Brunette, Sappho, Reed's Ada, Mrs. Bragg, and Bertha, being rather delicate growers, should be wintered in pots; notwithstanding, they are now in luxuriant health after being wintered in our beds, so that it is not absolutely necessary they should be wintered in pots, but it is safest to do so. It will be as well here to remark, that for *wintering in pots*, the best place is a cold frame, with a dry bottom, raised above the level of the ground, and with the glass in good order, giving all the air possible, and keeping the plants quite hardy, but dry. Let the plants be in small sixty-sized pots.

In March, the beds are well trodden between the plants, before the top-dressing. We then mix one barrow of mould with three barrows of thoroughly decayed manure, and top-dress the bed to the depth of one inch, and if the weather should continue dry after top-dressing, give a good watering occasionally. With growers of Pinks, one fact should be borne in mind. To ensure well laced flowers, they should be

planted early in the autumn, and if treated as we have before described, much less disappointment will exist than under the ordinary treatment practised by many. Plants wintered in pots, and planted out in March or April, will lace equally as well as those planted out in September. The propagation of the Pink is often delayed until too late in the season. Good strong plants can only be procured by commencing early, and the sooner after the 20th of June the better.

CARNATIONS AND PICOTEES.

SOIL FOR CARNATIONS.—One barrow of well decayed manure to four barrows of good turfy loam.

SOIL FOR PICOTEES.—One barrow of well decayed manure to three barrows of good turfy loam.

The soil, as will be seen, will be richer for Picotees than Carnations, as the latter flower has a tendency to run in colour. In November, mix the soil in a dry state, and fully expose it to the action of the air. During winter, remove the frosted surface at every opportunity, and place it in a heap by itself, until the whole is frosted. Keep it dry from snow and heavy rains, and turn it over often, until required for use. We bloom our plants in eleven-inch pots, each pot accommodating from three to four very strong plants. Weaker plants should be grown in eight-inch pots, two or three plants in a pot.

Begin potting the first week in March, using from two to three inches of broken crocks and clinkers as drainage. Chop the soil well, *sifting only a portion, for about three inches of soil at the top*, using the coarse portion of the siftings as a thin layer over the crocks, to assist drainage. *Pot very firm indeed.*

After potting, expose them fully to the weather, placing the pots on two parallel slips of wood, so as to ensure good drainage, and prevent the ingress of worms. Water moderately after potting.

We have been induced to offer these remarks on the culture of Picotees and Carnations, in conse-

quence of having received so many communications lately on the subject, and believing also that our plan of culture would be as acceptable to our readers as any. We are anxious to impress on the minds of readers, that Carnations, Picotees, and Pinks are thoroughly hardy plants, and will bear any amount of frost, under proper treatment,—by which we mean, being kept dry in a dry frame, well aired, and moderately watered in sunny open weather. In short, as a general rule, keep dry and air well. We wintered several thousand pairs in dry frames, without any covering whatever, with the soil frozen hard for weeks, and were rewarded by luxuriant health and vigour. With many, the Carnation is treated too tenderly, by keeping them in close frames, watering too freely, and covering too much. It is also a great fault to pot off in large pots, for wintering. We use none larger than large sixty-sized pots for a pair of strong layers.

PANSIES.

These have wintered well. The plants in pots, wintered in cold dry frames, with little or no covering, are in luxuriant health. Those planted out have done equally well, and, as with Pinks, raised beds are used. We are now blooming upwards of fourteen thousand seedling Pansies, all of which have been wintered on raised beds, without any covering, and with the loss of less than two hundred plants. The seed is sown broadcast in a bed, towards the end of July, placing frame lights over it about three inches from the surface, and keeping it damp and shaded until the seed is coming up. When fairly up, it can be exposed to the sun, using the lights only in case of heavy rains. In September, prick them out in raised beds, for flowering in spring.

It will, therefore, be seen that with us all florists' flowers in the open ground during the winter are on well raised beds. Our northern friends appear not to have paid sufficient attention to the importance of

this step, and we trust that before another winter sets in they will be induced to follow the plan practised so successfully here, by which ample drainage is secured to the plants, instead of their being sodden with water after a heavy rain or snow, as occurs when the beds are on a level with the paths. In some soils it will be necessary to drain the beds.

DAHLIAS.

There has also been a great loss in Dahlia roots this season. Now that we are propagating this flower, but little exertion is necessary to make a few more plants than are required for planting of certain varieties that should be grown in pots, for the purpose of producing small sound roots which winter easily, as well as being suitable for travelling to any distance. The following varieties seldom produce sound roots in the ground, and invariably perish before Christmas arrives, viz.:—Annie Salter, Bob, Marvel, Duchess of Sutherland, Bishop of Hereford, and George Villiers. It is as well to have a few pot roots of all the choice kinds, in case of failure in any of the ground roots. These will winter easily anywhere, if excluded from frost. Ground roots should be well dried before starting, and they keep very well in a dry warm cellar. Many persons have no other convenience than placing them under the stage of their greenhouse; this answers very well if they can be kept free from drip from above. By no means put them in a loft, unless it is heated, or the frost will find them out.

The ground for growing the plants in having been trenched in the autumn, it will only be necessary to turn it over with the spade before planting, choosing fine weather, when the soil is dry. *Planting cannot safely be commenced before the first week in May, unless protection is at hand for covering the plants during the night.* Many—ourselves among the number—do not plant until the first week in June.

Several spits of good rotten manure should be mixed with the soil immediately under the plant. If the soil is well prepared, and a good healthy plant put out, very early planting is unnecessary, to say nothing of the danger of losing the plants by frost.

We cannot do better than repeat the following instructions:—*“To grow a good plant during the time it is in the pot, is of far more importance than early planting.* Pot them into four-inch pots, using rich soil; the pots should be drained with coarse partly-decomposed leaf-mould, so that in planting out there will be nothing to abstract from the ball of earth. A good start is of great importance; therefore care should be taken that the plant is grown to a fair size, without drawing, during the time it is in the pot; the stouter it is, the better, without being tall; and it should not be pot-bound at the time of planting out. Both the roots and the point of the plant should be in a thriving condition, and free from aphides. It may, perhaps, be unnecessary to state that the plants must be carefully hardened off before they are turned out. If the soil and plants are in a proper state, the first week in June will be a good time for planting out, and, with ordinary care and attention, good plants will be produced in time for the earliest exhibition. A short period will suffice to have plants of a good size, but it should be borne in mind that hours lost in repotting them when in a young state will make a difference of days in the time of blooming, and it is important that this should be clearly understood, that no neglect in the matter may take place. Examine the plants often, to see if any require water; by no means let them become dry so long as they are in pots. Secure them with proper and strong fastenings at the time of planting; water them whenever they require it, and sprinkle the foliage slightly with soft water almost every evening. Tie out the branches, and, as the plants increase in size, secure the side shoots firmly to extra stakes.”

AURICULAS.

Here is another flower which we never show to any one without the remark being elicited, "Very beautiful, but so very difficult to winter!" They are neither very difficult to manage or to keep through the winter; on the contrary, no collection gives us so little trouble. If kept dry when in a dormant state, watered freely during the growing time, grown in a proper box or frame, *and always kept clean*, success is tolerably certain. The Auricula, like the Carnation, is by no means a tender plant, if properly grown. A single mat was all the protection given to our plants during the long severe winter, and *kept in a dry frame*.

HOLLYHOCKS.

These are easily grown and bloomed, if you have a good plant; but here is the difficulty. How are good plants to be made? Our most experienced propagators have failed this winter. Many that had considered they had found the best method of producing a large number of plants from one root, have all at once found themselves at fault. Hundreds of what appeared to be well-established plants in the autumn, have gone off during the winter. Young struck plants also rot at the collar after being well rooted. Those that have small and healthy plants now will do well to repot them into rich light soil, and grow them for a time under glass, planting them out into well-prepared and well-manured ground as soon as the roots are working freely round the sides of the pots. Strong plants may be wintered in a cold pit or frame; if weakly, a little gentle heat, not very moist or very dry, will assist then greatly. The summer treatment is very simple and easy, after being securely wintered.

The Florist, May, 1855.

Never fill a pot so full of soil but that it may hold water enough to go through it; every pot should have half an inch of vacancy above the compost.

FLORICULTURE.

BY J. EDWARDS, F.H.S.

[From Rendle's Price Current and Garden Directory.]

THE term, floriculture, embodies so much in connection with general gardening, that some precise definition of the word appears now to be absolutely called for. In its simplest acceptation it means—the cultivation of flowers. The term is of recent invention, or rather adaptation, and is not to be found in any of our older dictionaries. We find it first applied to the cultivation of a few special subjects, such as Auriculas, Pinks, and the like, to which our forefathers gave—*par excellence*—the designation of florists' flowers. But of late years the portals of floriculture have been opened, and have afforded an entrance within her own extensive dominion to an extended range of subjects; so that the word may now be taken to imply the *superior* cultivation of flowers which yield seed, producing an offspring liable to vary from the parent in the form and colour of the flowers, and which produce can be propagated with sufficient facility to perpetuate the variety.

Hence it is obvious that mere annuals are not to be comprised in this category, nor those subjects which fail to give us seed and variety therefrom. Herbaceous Calceolarias must not be classified with, or rather not elevated to the distinction of florists' flowers; while the true shrubby sorts may justly claim it, without violating the law as here laid down:—Auriculas, Antirrhinums, Azaleas, Camellias, Cinerarias, Carnations, Chrysanthemums, Crocuses, Cactuses, Dahlias, Ericas, Epacrises, Fuchsias, Hollyhocks, Liliums, Mimuluses, Pansies, Phloxes, Petunias, Pinks, Picotees, Polyanthuses, Pelargoniums, Ranunculuses, Roses, Rhododendrons, Tulips, Verbenas, and perhaps several other species not enumerated, may fairly receive the designation of florists' flowers.

Some few of the foregoing may be said to appertain more especially to the French, with whom we claim to be allies no less in the gentle science of floriculture, than in the more rugged art of war. The Chrysanthemum fails to seed freely in England; the Hyacinth, the Phlox, and the Camellia are all in a greater or less degree indebted to the assistance of our neighbours.

It seems somewhat strange, but it is not the less true, that the origination of new varieties of the Rose—the emblem of England—is almost exclusively confined to the hands of our Gallic and gallant allies. Of the long array of Roses now in cultivation, very few have been raised in England; but we justly pride ourselves that of these few *Devoniensis* is in itself a host, standing forth boldly, as it incontrovertibly does, at the very head of its class. As a Rose of purely English origin, we must not omit to mention George the Fourth, one of the earliest of the productions of that veteran Rose grower, Mr. Thos. Rivers. Alluding to the subject of British Roses, Mr. W. Paul, in his work entitled “The Rose Garden” (Piper, Stephenson, and Spence, Paternoster-row), states that he has himself raised many seedlings, but none of sufficient merit to remain long in cultivation. Justice compels us to add, that this dearth of English Roses is in no degree due to any supineness or lack of energy in our cultivators, who are, in truth, among the most enthusiastic of florists; it is the natural effect of our short summers and variable climate.

British cultivators are at the present day abundantly distributed throughout the length and breadth of our island; and they abound no less in Holland, France, Belgium, America, &c., &c. “Floriculture, and may it flourish all over the world,” is a sentiment always recognized and warmly responded to, on those social occasions when florists assemble, and right well has the sentiment been echoed and re-echoed beyond the shores of Old England.

Already has floriculture become a source of com-

merce, daily rising in importance; from whence it needs no prophet's eye to discern that independence, and wealth, and honours are largely in store for the enterprising spirit. Shall we be deemed too visionary or too sanguine in the expression of our opinion, that from this cause the material may be found to frame a basis on which, in after years, the superstructure of many a goodly and illustrious house will be raised?

It is an error to suppose that the florist's sole claim to public approbation is that derived from the pleasure and gratification afforded by the exhibition of his productions, from time to time, at flower shows. It may, perhaps, be true that your thorough florist is mainly instigated by the desire of shining as an exhibiter; but it is no less true that he has also another object in view—subservient, it may be, to the first—but of far greater general utility; viz., the production of flowers applicable to the purposes of decoration. To this branch of floriculture I propose to confine my observations on this occasion. Take a retrospective glance, good reader, at the bedding-out plants in use fifteen, or even ten years ago, and then consider the improved habit, the varied and brilliant colours of innumerable kinds, which the florist has given in exchange for sorts, good enough in their day, yet possessing no merit in comparison with the worst of those which abound at the present time. There is scarcely a colour, or shade of colour, which cannot now be found, combined with quality of flower, habit, fragrance, or some other commendable qualification. These results are due, and solely due, to the labour, the skill, and the perseverance of the florist.

It will not be uninteresting to pass in rapid review a few good subjects for general decorative purposes, and to offer such brief comments thereon as circumstances prompt.

Take, to begin with, the shrubby *Calceolaria*. In this family we find the following colours:—White, yellow, orange, brown, crimson, and their intermediate shades, in selfs, and blended tints. Their value for

bedding purposes, or for pot culture, can scarcely be over-estimated, as few subjects afford a gayer display, either in the greenhouse or on the parterre. Some desirable varieties, if not the best, are to be found in the following :—

Ajax	Gold Cup	Purity
Amplexicaulis	Golden Chain	Rugosa
Augustifolia	Ion	Shankleyana
Brilliant	Kayii Improved	Sulphurea splendens
Compacta	Kentish Hero	Sultan
Crimson King	Magnificent	Viscosissima
Eclipse	Miss Prettyman	Wellington Hero
Florabunda	Model	

It must be remembered that the prevailing colour of the flower under consideration is yellow. If an order be given for a certain quantity, and the selection of sorts left to the discretion of the nurseryman who supplies the order, it is a good plan to fix the limit to the number of varieties of this colour; but good descriptive trade catalogues are so abundant now-a-days, that the amateur will experience no difficulty in selecting for himself ample variety, and thus securing beds of bloom at once distinctive and harmonious.

The Pansy may be safely set down as a sterling decorative bedding plant, but it is not of a lasting character; its season is peculiarly that of spring and early summer, after which it will be found to deteriorate in quality, and to suffer from drought; however, the places of the declining plants can be taken by late-flowering stock, then ready for turning out.

For the purposes of out-door decoration, the *Verbena* stands eminently forward, if not without a rival: it is, in truth, the mainstay of the bedding-out gardener.

The florist regards this flower with peculiar complacency. His success in its cultivation has never been paralleled in any other subject. His persevering industry has given us colours of the most intense hues, individual flowers of form surpassing even our ideal standards for perfection, size beyond belief, delicious

fragrance, with truss of itself a nosegay, habit short-jointed, and bloom prolific.

These are results of which the florist may well be proud. Nor have these results been long in their attainment. A few brief years have sufficed to make the *Verbena* one of the most attractive—not only as a decorative, but also as a general florists' flower. Not an exhibition is now to be found which fails to invite collections of *Verbenas*; growing plants and bunches of cut trusses are in request for the million, while single trusses are specially required to meet the demands of the severe critic. On a late occasion, at a meeting of the National Floricultural Society, 21, Regent-street, some half-dozen collections of twelve trusses each were staged to compete for the society's very moderate prizes, and it was admitted on all hands that such a display of high cultivation was never before made; perhaps it would not be too much to assert that these six stands of flowers surpassed all the floral productions of the season; the great botanist, Dr. Lindley, acknowledged their merit, and, with some misgivings, ventured to doubt the genuineness of the trusses, such bouquets of beauty were they.

How long the *Verbena* has been with us is not the present question. It is enough to say that Mr. G. Smith, of the Tollington Nursery, Hornsey-road, Middlesex, will, in the spring of 1856, offer to the professional florists of England, and through them to the amateur, a batch of seedlings, which, for absolute quality on every desirable point, have hitherto been unequalled. For these we are largely indebted to the pains-taking gardener of D. M'Neil, Esq. In thus designating Mr. Wetherill, we are doing him scanty justice, he is not only a pains-taking gardener, but a worthy man and a genuine florist; a grower of all he undertakes, strictly for competition, and withal a successful exhibiter. Subjoined will be found a list of sorts best adapted for out-door decorative use, among which are many equally well-fitted for pot-culture. Since the *Price Current* cannot *as yet* be

accepted, even in part, as a florist's work, the enumeration will not be confined to new subjects only, nor would such a list be acceptable to the majority of the readers of this universally-acknowledged annual; the object is to provide information for the many, and not to confine the recommendations to those subjects, which, possessing *nice points* of excellence, form the requirements only of the few. The time *may* come when *Rendle's Price Current* will be regarded by the florist as it is now looked upon by the general gardener. That it may speedily acquire such celebrity is the sincere wish of the writer of these comments.

Some first-class Verbenas for bedding purposes:—

Ajax (Smith)	Mrs. F. G. Cayley (Chauviere)
Annie Laurie (Edmonds)	Montana
Augustine (Chauviere)	Magnificent (Smith)
Blue Beard (Edmonds)	Madame Schmidt (Chauviere)
Blue Bonnet (Turner)	Madame de Lavalliere (Chauviere)
Boule de Feu (Young)	Orion (Smith)
Brillante de Vaise	Orlando (Smith)
Caliban (Smith)	Orb of Day
Climax (Smith)	Purple King (Reeves)
Celina Mallet	Rouge et Noir (Edmonds)
Defiance (Robinson)	St. Margaret (Barker)
Eblouissante (Chauviere)	Sarah (Garrard)
Empress (Smith)	Tyrian Prince (Edmonds)
Florence Nightingale (Edmonds)	Vicomtesse de Belleville (Chauviere)
Iver Rival (Thomson)	Violacea (Smith)
John Edwards (Smith)	White Perfection (Smith)
King of Scarlets (Thomson)	Wonderful (Edmonds)
Lord Raglan (Banks)	
Loveliness	

[To be concluded in our next.]

THE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.—We noticed in our last, that the large collection of Orchids and Ferns belonging to the gardens of our great horticultural corporation, had been sold. This is a matter of great regret, and bodes the ruin impending on what ought to have been one of the most prosperous societies in the kingdom. Another step in the downward track is now announced, namely, that the council have ordered that the valuable collection of dried plants

for the herbarium, formed by their travellers for the last forty years, at so much care and labour, and expense, shall be sold by auction, in the course of the present month of January. This is not the right way to relieve them from their difficulties, and every step they take only proves that the present managers are incapable of rescuing the concern from the difficulties by which it is beset.

REVIEWS.

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RENDLE'S PRICE CURRENT FOR 1856.

LAST year we had two notices in the *Midland Florist* of Messrs. Rendle's very useful work, the one in the February, number, from the pen of Mr. Wood; the second, in March by Mr. Dodwell. Both these gentlemen thought the work worthy of their notice, and if it were so in 1855, beyond all question that for 1856 far surpasses it. Truly we live in wondrous times; almost every man, in every station of society, may obtain his year-book or almanack, furnishing him with precisely the information suited to his particular calling or vocation, and the horticulturist or gardener may here find a year-book, well suited to be his every-day companion through the varying seasons of 1856. The object Messrs. Rendle have in publishing it, is not merely to furnish a price current and garden directory, but also to "be a true and correct guide to the amateur in gardening, a remembrancer to the more advanced in horticulture, and a source of reference to all." The almanack prefixed has many interesting notices, suited both to the gardener and the naturalist; and then follows the collections of seeds, and the prices of them, a descriptive priced catalogue of kitchen garden seeds, roots, &c. At page 53—for, instead of a sheet price current, it is a volume—we find the commencement of a general list of flower seeds, prefixed by some lengthened observations from Mr. Robert Errington, one of the best

practical horticulturists of the day. The flower seed catalogue notices four hundred and seventy-one varieties, with their hardiness, colour, height, time of flowering, and price; an immense amount of labour and time must have been laid out in preparing this catalogue. We have then—what to the amateur is beyond all price—a list of thirty-two new annuals for 1856, with a description of them. In years gone by, what would we have given for such a list? We have gone into the seed shops in London, and inquired for anything new, when we have been furnished with five or six packages—tiny and thin—and charged, we hardly dare say how much for them, and were only too happy to carry home with us something, the worth or worthlessness of which we had to find out after many days. A great variety of imported German seeds are also given. The calendar of operations through the varied months of the year, is revised and extended by Mr. Robert Errington, and contains a treasury of hints and remembrances for the year. Mr. John Edwards, the secretary of the National Floricultural Society, has enriched the work by an elaborate article on floriculture. Other articles have been furnished by Mr. Hamilton, the celebrated author of the *Hamiltonian System of Pine Growing*; from Mr. Haythorn, gardener to Lord Middleton, of Wollaton Hall; from Mr. N. Niven, late curator of the Glasnevin Botanic Gardens; from Mr. James Cuthill, the well-known horticulturist; from Mr. J. B. Lawes, the celebrated agricultural chemist; and from other well-known writers in this class of floral literature. Surely more we need not say in commendation of the work, which, though issued to the world with the unpretending name of a price current, ought to assume something more like “*Rendle’s Horticultural and Agricultural Year-Book for 1856.*” The price is only sixpence, and as it bears the names of Simpkin and Marshall, the well-known publishers of the *Midland Florist*, we expect it will have a large sale, wherever its merits are made known.

CALENDAR OF OPERATIONS,

FOR JANUARY.

PLANT DEPARTMENT.

CONSERVATORY AND PITS.—The Chrysanthemum will be getting past the best, and should be replaced at once, as it has a very shabby appearance when the beauty of the flower is over. Give timely attention to providing a succession of bloom, with which to keep the house gay, and avoid, as far as possible, hard forcing, which is injurious to most plants. Apply weak manure water to plants in bloom. Give air freely at every favourable opportunity, and a little fire, where convenient, for those great enemies, damp and mildew, must be guarded against at the present season. Very little water will be required, but the want of it should not be allowed to be felt. If not done already, get the plants tied out with the least possible delay. The sooner all this kind of work is done the better the plants will look when in bloom.

COLD PITS.—The present is a very trying season for the inmates of these places, and every advantage must be taken of mild dry days to give air freely. Look over the plants, and remove decaying leaves, &c., which, if left, encourage damp and mildew. Scarcely any watering will be necessary for some time to come, and the plants will be all the better for being kept rather dry at the roots; but strong plants will probably require watering occasionally, to prevent the balls getting too dry. When water must be given, select a dry morning, and give air during the day, covering up at night.

FORCING DEPARTMENT.

VINERY.—As soon as the house is closed for forcing, secure a thoroughly moist atmosphere, by frequently sprinkling the floor and every available surface. This will add materially to the strength of the breaking of the vines. Avoid too strong fires at the commencement.

Where required, Sea-kale, Asparagus, and Rhubarb may be placed in boxes, or large pots, covering the crown of the plant with another large pot, inverted.

CUCUMBERS.—As it is generally the ambition of most growers to excel in the production of early Cucumbers, dung, &c. should be prepared for the beds, and where not possessing other means, the following may be adopted:—Provide some good stable dung, selecting that which is fresh, moist, and full of heat. If the dung be rank, it will be advisable to prepare it, by mixing well together in a heap, and allowing it to ferment eight or ten days. Place the frame on the bed, and keep the lights down

till a fair amount of heat is obtained, and then raise them a little, to allow the superfluous vapour to pass away. Spread over the manure a layer of rich light earth, about four inches thick; sow the seed in pots, plunging the pots in the bed. If the heat is too strong, and liable to injure the plants, as is sometimes the case, the pots may be readily drawn up more or less. At sunset, cover the lights of the frame with mats, which should not be removed earlier than nine o'clock on the following morning. Should too much steam be generated, it will be advisable to keep the frame open a little, by inserting a thin slip of wood at the head. This will allow air at all opportunities, and materially strengthen the plants.

FLOWER GARDEN.

Bulbs of all kinds, under proper management, ought to have been in the ground, but, if any have been neglected, lose no time in doing the best that can be done, by planting them.

Tulips intended for exhibition should be as carefully kept from frost as possible; the soil they are in should not be even allowed to crust on the top, if it can be avoided. If the earth be frozen down to the bulb, the bloom will assuredly be less perfect than if it were not frozen, however lightly the thing may have been treated, in consequence of the known hardy nature of the bulb.

Pinks and Pansies in beds may be preserved, in case of hard frost, by covering with litter of any kind, rather loosely, but not enough to deprive them of light and air. Pea haulm is an excellent litter for the purpose.

Hyacinths in beds or borders should be covered with hoops and mats, or with litter; or, if they are in small patches, an inverted flower pot on each patch.

Carnations and Picotees are as impatient of wet and confinement as any hardy flower that blows; they suffer mildew from that cause alone. The frame they are kept in should be impervious to rain, and the bottom paved or cemented, and sufficiently sloping to let the wet from watering run off at once, for the damp which would arise from a soddened bottom is as fatal as wet upon their foliage. The glasses should be off every mild day, and closed in frost and rain.

KITCHEN GARDEN.

Take every opportunity of pushing forward pruning and nailing. Give air freely to lettuce and cauliflowers in frames and under glasses, remembering that the cover is only used to exclude frost and rain. Keep the plants hardy.

If not already done, sow a few Peas and Beans; and, if the weather be open, about the middle of the month, a little Celery, Radishes, Carrots, Spinach and Parsley, sowing thickly.

FLORAL EXHIBITIONS.

HOOLEY HILL TULIP EXHIBITION.

At the house of Mr. John Hulton, Gardeners' Tavern, June 16, 1855.

Feathered Bizarres.

- 1 Charles, X., J. Barratt
- 2 Polyphemus, J. Mills
- 3 Sidney, J. Peacock
- 4 Royal Gem, Nunnerley
- 5 Lord Lilford, H. Cobourne
- 6 Apelles, Nunnerley
- 7 Masterpiece, J. Naylor
- 8 Surpass Catafalque, J. Peacock

Flamed Bizarres.

- 1 Polyphemus, A. Leech
- 2 Charles, X., J. Peacock
- 3 Pilot, H. Cobourne
- 4 San Joe, W. Chadwick
- 5 Lustre, Travis
- 6 Albion, S. Shawcross
- 7 Surpass Catafalque, J. Cato
- 8 Sunbeam, J. Barratt

Feathered Byblæmens.

- 1 Bienfait, J. Cocks
- 2 Violet Amiable, ditto
- 3 Maid of Orleans, Nunnerley
- 4 Edgar, J. Naylor
- 5 Catherine, Travis
- 6 Maid of Athens, Z. Peacock
- 7 Lord Denman, Nunnerley
- 8 Violet Winner, W. Garside

Flamed Byblæmens.

- 1 Queen Charlotte, Nunnerley
- 2 Violet Wallers, J. Cato
- 3 Flora, H. Cobourne
- 4 Alexander Magnus, S. Stopford
- 5 Maid of Athens, ditto
- 6 Lord Denman, Nunnerley
- 7 Bienfait, J. Barratt
- 8 Stockport Queen, W. Chadwick

Feathered Roses.

- 1 Heroine, Nunnerley
- 2 Lady Crewe, J. Lees

- 3 Comte de Vergennes, J. Barratt
- 4 Rosy Gem, Nunnerley
- 5 Aglaia, ditto
- 6 Claudiana, J. Naylor
- 7 Andromeda, F. Yates
- 8 Hero of the Nile, Nunnerley

Flamed Roses.

- 1 Unique, Z. Peacock
- 2 Aglaia, J. Cato
- 3 Royal, J. Peacock
- 4 Vainqueur, S. Shawcross
- 5 Lord Hill, H. Cobourne
- 6 La Vandicken, T. Leech
- 7 Anastasia, W. Chadwick
- 8 Guerrier, S. Shawcross

Bizarre Breeders.

- 1 Lord Raglan, J. Peacock
- 2 Ashmole's No. 75, Z. Peacock
- 3 Exquisite, Nunnerley
- 4 Ashmole's Seedling, ditto
- 5 Catafalque, W. Chadwick
- 6 Intrepid, Z. Peacock

Byblæmen Breeders.

- 1 Sir R. Peel, Z. Peacock
- 2 Maid of Orleans, H. Cobourne
- 3 Miss Forest, J. Peacock
- 4 Verpoort, W. Chadwick
- 5 Van Amburgh, Nunnerley
- 6 Seedling, J. Naylor

Rose Breeders.

- 1 Lord Derby, J. Cocks
- 2 Juliet, Z. Peacock
- 3 Anastasia, Nunnerley
- 4 Mabel, J. Peacock
- 5 Seedling, Z. Peacock
- 6 Rosabel, W. Chadwick

Selfs.

- White Flag, J. Lees
Min d'Or, R. Alsop

THE GREAT NORTH CHESHIRE TULIP EXHIBITION.

At the house of Mr. Goddard, Sportsman's Inn, Hyde, June 15.

A Silver Cup, value £5, was awarded to Mr. J. Peacock, for the best stand of six rectified flowers, viz., Charles, X., Maid of Orleans, Claudiana, Charles, X., Lady Stanley, and Celestial; the 2nd stand was awarded to Mr. Z. Peacock. The best stand of breeders, Mr. Z. Peacock, viz., Captain Butler, Queen, and Juliet; 2nd J. Peacock. The premier prize was awarded to Mr. P. Howard, Royal Gem. Mr. Z. Peacock, Mr. J. Naylor, and Mr. J. Peacock, where the principal winners in the classes.

OXFORD FLORAL SOCIETY.

On Tuesday, July 3, the members of this society held their annual show of Pinks, Ranunculuses, and Pansies. Some very fine seedling Pinks and

Ranunculuses were exhibited. Mrs. Stevens, a fine first rate Pink, raised by Mr. T. Looker, attracted considerable attention. It is of full average size, with broad well shaped petals, quite smooth, and the white very pure. Invincible, by the same raiser, was very fine; as was also a seedling rose self Ranunculus, raised by Mr. John Stevens. Mr. Looker's stand was remarkably fine. The award was as follows:—

PINKS.

1. T. Looker, for Looker's Invincible, Looker's Mrs. Stevens, Looker's Ganymede, Looker's Sovereign, Looker's Ophir, Looker's Mrs. Hobbs, Bragg's Koh i Noor.

2. H. Carter, for Read's Mary Ann, Carter's Rose Empress, Bragg's Prince of Wales, Turner's Sarah, Leg's Kate, and two seedlings.

3. G. Kirkland, (no names given).

4. W. Plaister, for Looker's Flora, Looker's Juno, Turner's Sarah, Looker's Warner Henley, Esq., Long's Charles, Turner's Optima, Long's Seedling.

Seedling Prize.—Mr. T. Looker, for Looker's Mrs. Stevens.

RANUNCULUSES.

*Selfs.**Variegated.*

1 W. Molineux, all seedlings

2 J. Stevens, all seedlings

1 W. Molineux, seedlings

2 J. Stevens, seedlings

3 H. Bell, seedlings

PANSIES.

Stand of Twenty-four Varieties.—T. Looker, for Duke of Perth, Victory, Miss C. Bouverie, Duke of Sutherland, Supreme, Pandora, British Queen, Royal Visit, Queen of England, Golden Eagle, Robert Burns, National, Lady Carrington, Miss Talbot, Ajax, Father Gavazzi, Virgo, Earl Mansfield, Medora, Monarch, Royal Standard, Glyph, Sir Joseph Paxton.

Judges.—For Pinks, Mr. J. Maltby, Mr. J. Stevens. For Ranunculuses, Mr. T. Looker, Mr. G. Kirkland.

CHESTERFIELD AND BRAMPTON HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

July 3rd, 1855.

PANSIES.

Twelve Blooms.—1. Lord Jeffries, National, Flower of the Day, Father Gavazzi, Lady Emily, Royal Visit, Diadem, Mrs. Beck, Pandora, Fair Flora, Duke of Perth, and Sovereign, J. Charlesworth. 2. Monarch, Duke of Sutherland, Emperor, Lord Jeffries, Beauty, Orange Superb, Flower of the Day, Sultan, Miss Talbot, Sir J. Cathcart, Dr. Phillips, and Father Gavazzi, W. Slack. 3. Juventa, Mrs. Beck, Sir J. Cathcart, Lord Jeffries, Miss Talbot, Yellow Climax, Lady Emily, Rising Sun, Great Western, and three seedlings, W. M. Hewitt. 4. Lord Jeffries, Yellow Climax, Flower of the Day, Royal Visit, Sir J. Cathcart, Pandora, Miss Talbot, Father Gavazzi, Lady Emily, Emperor, Lord Palmerston, and Yellow Supreme, Mr. Aukland.

Six Blooms.—1. Flower of the Day, Monarch, Miss Talbot, Pandora, Miriam, and Great Western, J. Hopkinson. 2. Flower of the Day, Pandora, Royal Visit, Sir J. Cathcart, Yellow Supreme, and Miss Talbot, C. Haslam. 3. Lord Walsingham, Euphemia, Ophir, Father Gavazzi, Mr. Beck, and Owen Glendower, F. Bower.

August 8th.

PANSIES.

Twelve Blooms.—1. Lord Jeffries, Miss Talbot, Sir J. Cathcart, Pandora, Mrs. Beck, Blanche, Lady Emily, France Cycole, and three seedlings, W. M. Hewitt. 2. Sir J. Cathcart, Miss Talbot, Rhoda, Dr. Phillips, Pandora, Duke of Perth, Royal Visit, Mr. Thompson, Father Gavazzi, Lord Palmerston, and two seedlings, W. Slack. 3. Lady Emily, Duke of Perth, Sir J. Cathcart, National, Mrs. Beck, Fair Flora, Royal Visit, Miss Talbot, Lord Jeffries, Pandora, Sovereign, and a seedling, J. Charlesworth.

Six Blooms.—1. Miss Talbot, Mr. Thompson, Father Gavazzi, Royal Visit, Flower of the Day, and Lady Emily, F. Bower. 2. Lord Jeffries, Sir J. Cathcart, Miss Talbot, Pandora, Flower of the Day, and a seedling, C. Haslam.

September 11th.

PANSIES.

Twelve Blooms.—1. Jeffries, Lady Emily, Flower of the Day, Great Western, Yellow Climax, Bath, Palmerston, National, Pandora, Sir J. Cathcart, Miss Talbot, and Egon, W. M. Hewitt 2. Dr. Phillips, Mrs Beck, Great Western, Rhoda, Royal Visit, Monarch, Jeffries, Sir J. Cathcart, Argo, Palmerston, Lady Emily, and Father Gavazzi, W. Slack. 3. Pandora, Mr. Beck, Climax, Visit, Flower of the Day, Jeffries, Lady Emily, Emperor, Miss Talbot, Father Gavazzi, and two seedlings, Mr. Aukland.

Six Blooms.—1. Pandora, National, Jeffries, Mr. Beck, Miss Talbot, and Cathcart, J. Charlesworth. 2. Great Western, Flower of the Day, Cathcart, Cycole, Supreme, and Miriam, Mr. Hopkinson.

DAHLIAS.

Eighteen Blooms.—1. Gem of the Grove, Bruce, R. Rawlings, Caroline, Beauty of Slough, Geo. Villiers, Admiral, Gen. Faucher, Geo. Glenny, Incomparable, Duke of Wellington, Primrose Perfection, King of Yellows, Empress, Rose Elegant, Brilliant, Fanny Keynes, and Sir F. Bathurst, W. Slack. 2. Fearless, Bishop of Hereford, Whittington, Thesiger, King of Yellows, R. Rawlings, Una Dahlia King, Orion, Abbe Vere, Plengede, Bowyer, Beauty of Versailles, Fanny Keynes, Duchess of Kent, Beauty of Slough, Primrose Perfection, Rose of England, and Rawlings, J. Hindmarsh, Esq.

Twelve Blooms.—1. Wellington, Whittington, R. Rawlings, General Faucher, Beauty of Versailles, Fearless, Lady Bathurst, Miss Spears, Bishop of Hereford, Radziville, Mrs. Bacon, and Essex Triumph, J. Charlesworth. 2. Dazzle, Bishop of Hereford, Morning Star, Mrs. Hansard, Lilac King, George Glenny, Sir C. Napier, Beauty of Versailles, Bathurst, Admiral, Caroline, and King of Yellows, E. Morley. 3. R. Rawlings, Bathurst, Dazzle, Radziville, King of Yellows, Sir R. Peel, Bishop of Hereford, Gen. Faucher, Duke of Wellington, Primrose Perfection, Admiral, and Beauty of the Grove, C. Haslam.

Pans of Six.—1. Dazzle, General Faucher, Bishop of Hereford, Mrs. Charles Bacon, Duke of Wellington, King of Yellows, W. Marples. 2. George Glenny, Bishop of Hereford, Mrs. Charles Bacon, General Faucher, Sir F. Bathurst, Dazzle, J. Rodgers. 3. Duke of Wellington, King of Yellows, General Faucher, Dazzle, Beauty of Versailles, Mrs. Hansard, W. Tomlin. 4. King of Yellows, General Faucher, Rachel Rawlings, Duke of Wellington, Beauty of Versailles, Primrose Perfection, C. Aukland.

White.

- 1 J. Hindmarsh, Esq.
- 2 Una, F. Bower
- 3 Empress, W. Slack
- 4 Una, E. Morley
- 5 Una, W. Marples
- 6 Queen of White, C. Haslam

Scarlet.

- 1 Dazzle, E. Morley
- 2 Dazzle, J. Charlesworth
- 3 J. Hindmarsh, Esq.
- 4 Sir C. Napier, W. Slack
- 5 Dazzle, E. Morley
- 6 Dazzle, W. Tomlin

Crimson.

- 1 Sir F. Bathurst, C. Haslam
- 2 J. Hindmarsh, Esq.
- 3 Sir F. Bathurst, J. Charlesworth
- 4 Sir F. Bathurst, W. Slack
- 6 J. Hindmarsh, Esq.

Yellow.

- 1 King of Yellow, W. Slack
- 2 J. Hindmarsh, Esq.
- 3 Primrose Perfection, F. Bower
- 4 J. Hindmarsh, Esq.
- 5 Louisa Glenny, W. Slack
- 6 J. Hindmarsh, Esq.

Dark.

- 1 J. Hindmarsh, Esq.
- 2 Bishop of Hereford, E. Morley
- 3 Bishop of Hereford, J. Charlesworth
- 4 Ditto, ditto
- 5 Ditto, ditto
- 6 Beauty of Versailles, F. Bower

Orange.

- 1 J. Hindmarsh, Esq.
- 2 Gen. Faucher, F. Bower
- 3 Robert Bruce, J. Charlesworth
- 4 Gen. Faucher, W. Slack
- 5 Duke of Wellington, F. Bower
- 6 J. Hindmarsh, Esq.

Rose, or Lilac.

- 1 Admiral, F. Bower
- 2 Lilac King, E. Morley
- 3 Fearless, F. Bower
- 4 Admiral, ditto
- 5 Ditto, ditto
- 6 Ditto, ditto

Tipped or Fancy.

- 1 Fanny Keynes, W. Slack
- 2 Beauty of the Grove, ditto
- 3 Fanny Keynes, ditto
- 4 Amazon, F. Bower
- 5 Amazon, W. Marples
- 6 J. Hindmarsh, Esq.

Premier Dahlia.—Duchess of Kent, J. Hindmarsh, Esq.

Premier Pansy.—Lady Emily, W. Slack.

A collection of red potatoes, raised by a member, from seed brought from Bermuda, three years ago, attracted much attention; they have increased their size fourfold without the flavour being deteriorated.

PINK SHOW.

At the house of Mr. John Harrison, Mason's Arms, Middleton, July 9.

Judges—Mr. Luke Ashmole, Mr. J. Jaques, and Mr. Joseph Clegg.

Pans.—1. Mango, Sturge, and Kay's Mary, J. Lancashire. 2. Mango, Sir Willtam, and Beauty of Home, J. Beswick. 3. Huntsman, Sturge, and Kay's Mary, R. Hope. 4. Mango, Sturge, and Kay's Mary, T. Lancashire. 5. Mango, Sir William, and Kay's Mary, H. Howarth. 6. Mango, Sturge, and Kay's Mary, C. Stott. 7 (Malden pan). Mango, Sturge, and Beauty of Home, S. Beswick.

Purple-laced.

- 1 Mango, R. Hope
- 2 Huntsman, ditto
- 3 Captain Reece, T. Lancashire
- 4 Glory, ditto
- 5 Greensides, J. Wild
- 6 Coronation, J. Lancashire
- 7 Black Boy, R. Hope
- 8 Attractive, J. Beswick

Red-laced.

- 1 Sturge, R. Hope
- 2 Sir William, T. Lancashire
- 3 Susanna, J. Wild
- 4 Mary Ellen, T. Lancashire

- 5 Professor, S. Rayner
- 6 Doctor Hepworth, J. Wild
- 7 Stockwell, J. Lancashire
- 8 Bright Star, R. Hope

Black and White.

- 1 Beauty of Home, T. Lancashire
- 2 Kay's Mary, S. Rayner
- 3 Snowball, C. Stott
- 4 Superior, S. Rayner
- 5 Virgin Queen, T. Lancashire
- 6 Beauty of Blackburn, ditto
- 7 Lady Boldhaughton, R. Hope
- 8 Seedling, J. Smithies

LEEDS CENTRAL FLORAL SOCIETY.

At J. Bramma's, Nag's Head Inn, Leeds, July 9.

PINKS.

Judges.—Messrs. P. Ratcliffe, R. White, and A. Giles.

1. J. Boshell, with Seedling, Countess Rossi, Seedling, Dan O'Rourke, Lady Frost, and Lady Milner. 2. E. Schofield, Wortley, with Seedling No. 1, Countess Rossi, Seedling No. 2, Dan O'Rourke, Willmer's Elizabeth, and Kay's Mary.

Dark laced.

- 1 Mango, E. Schofield
- 2 Huntsman, J. Boshell
- 3 Kate, W. Chadwick
- 4 Ada, ditto
- 5 Greensides, S. Hartley
- 6 Jenny Lind, J. Chadwick

Red-laced.

- 1 Seedling No. 3, E. Schofield
- 2 Dan O'Rourke, J. Boshell
- 3 Ditto, ditto
- 4 Ditto, ditto
- 5 Dan O'Rourke, J. Fryer
- 6 Allan a Dale, W. Chadwick

Shaded-laced.

- 1 Seedling No. 1, E. Schofield
- 2 Joseph Sturge, S. Hartley
- 3 Joseph Sturge, J. Fryer

- 4 Seedling No. 4, E. Schofield
- 5 Angelina, W. Chadwick
- 6 Seedling No. 5, E. Schofield

Dark-eyed.

- 1 Kay's Mary, J. Chadwick
- 2 Blackeyed Susan, S. Hartley
- 3 Kay's Mary, J. Chadwick
- 4 Ditto, ditto
- 5 Kay's Mary, W. Chadwick
- 6 Blackeyed Susan, ditto

Red-eyed.

- 1 Lady Frost, J. Boshell
- 2 Beauty of Home, J. Chadwick
- 3 Lady Frost, J. Boshell
- 4 Ditto, ditto
- 5 Ditto, ditto
- 6 Seedling, W. Chadwick

PINK SHOW.

At Mr. Samuel Horwell's, Red Lion Inn, Newcastle-under-Lyme, July 14.

Judges—Messrs. David Brown and Edward Harding.

Purple-laced.

- Premier—Taylor's Mango, R. Moorley
 1 Huntsman, W. Griffiths
 2 Blackeyed Susan, ditto
 3 Raynor's Flying Dutchman, R. Moorley
 4 Mango, W. Griffiths
 5 Seedling, Rory O'More, E. Barker
 6 Duke of St. Albans, ditto
 7 Auckland's Mary, W. Griffiths
 8 Barker's Capt. Hall, T. Bailey
 9 Buckley's Glory, H. Eaton
 10 Sambo, ditto
- Red-laced.*
 Premier—Susanna, W. Griffiths
 1 Susanna, ditto
 2 Joseph Sturge, H. Eaton
 3 Richard Cobden, W. Griffiths
 4 Seedling, Catherine, R. Moorley

- 5 Sir William, W. Griffiths
 6 Greaves Stockwell, ditto
 7 Mary Ellen, H. Eaton
 8 Criterion, W. Griffiths
 9 Dorothy, D. Bloor
 10 Lady Antrobus, W. Griffiths

Black and White.

- Premier—Virgin Queen, W. Griffiths
 1 Virgin Queen, ditto
 2 Margaret, T. Bailey
 3 Lady Boldhaughton, W. Griffiths
 4 Blackeyed Susan, D. Bloor
 5 Seedling, Martha Ann, R. Moorley
 6 Mary, W. Griffiths
 7 Lilla, D. Bloor
 8 Beauty of Clayton, T. Bailey
 9 Seedling, E. Barker
 10 Seedling, ditto

PINKS AND ROSES.

At Mr. R. Rowlinson's, Whitehall Gardens, Stoke-upon-Trent, July 20.

Best pan of twelve pinks was awarded to Mr. W. Griffiths, for the following, viz., Mango, Huntsman, Auckland's Mary, and Blackeyed Susan, purple-laced; Moorley's Seedling (Catherine), Joseph Sturge, Susanna, and Thirza, red-laced; Kay's Mary, Lady Boldhaughton, Virgin Queen, and Snowball, black and white.

Best pan of twelve roses was awarded to Mr. John Stevenson, for the following, viz., Laneil Moss, Coup d'Hebe, Blaril No. 2, Paul Perras, William Jesse, Auguste Mie, Adalaie, Henri Barbet, Paul Ricaut, La Riene, Geant des Batailles, and Madame Laffay.

PINK SHOW.

At T. Smith's, Swan Inn, Trent Vale, near Newcastle-under-Lyme, July 21.

Judges—Messrs. Edward Harding and David Brown.

Purple-laced.

- Premier—Seedling, John O'Gaunt, E. Barker
 1 Seedling, John O'Gaunt, E. Barker
 2 Mango, W. Griffiths
 3 Huntsman, E. Barker
 4 Blackeyed Susan, H. Eaton
 5 Duke of St. Albans, T. Bailey
 6 Raynor's Flying Dutchman, W. Griffiths
 7 Beauty of Rochdale, E. Barker
 8 Auckland's Mary, D. Bloor
 9 Pilot, R. Moorley
 10 Greensides, W. Griffiths
- Red-laced.*
 Premier—Joseph Sturge, W. Griffiths
 1 Joseph Sturge, H. Eaton
 2 Susanna, R. Moorley
 3 Moorley's Seedling, Catherine, W. Griffiths

- 4 Pilot, T. Bailey
 5 Richard Cobden, W. Griffiths
 6 Dr. Hepworth, ditto
 7 Mango, ditto
 8 Lady Antrobus, ditto
 9 Mary Ellen, R. Moorley
 10 Seedling, E. Barker

Black and White.

- Premier—Lady Boldhaughton, E. Barker
 1 Lady Boldhaughton, W. Griffiths
 2 Seedling, Martha Ann, R. Moorley
 3 Kay's Mary, W. Griffiths
 4 Virgin Queen, ditto
 5 Beauty of Clayton, H. Eaton
 6 Blackeyed Susan, D. Bloor
 7 Beauty of Home, R. Moorley
 8 Snowball, ditto
 9 Margaret, T. Bailey
 10 Lady Hall, W. Griffiths

ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

THE AURICULA.

BY GEORGE GLENNY, F.H.S.

How much it is to be regretted that the cultivation of this beautiful flower has declined near London! Not that London is the head quarters of floriculture, for it is the wet blanket that puts out the fire,—the extinguisher that destroys even the latent spark. It is the seat of that monopoly which disheartens the amateur, and taxes him to the extent of three-fourths of his expenditure. It disgusts many a one who commences with spirit the cultivation of some favourite family, of which, by liberal purchases, he tries to get the best, but finds himself too often in possession of the worst. The failure, or rather the decline of Auricula growing near the metropolis may be traced to various causes, among which the destruction of gardens to the number of some hundreds is not the least. The Auricula requires pure air, but time was when the City-road, Hoxton, Mile-end, Bethnal-green, Hackney, Rotherhithe, and Albany-road, all in close proximity to the great metropolis, produced thousands of fine specimens, the growers of which are gathered to their fathers, and their gardens covered with bricks and mortar. Still the cultivators who can do it live a little more distant, the gardens stretch out further from London, and there is no good reason why the Auricula should be lost to the metropolis; nor is there any real difficulty in the cultivation, that it should be so generally shunned. Hill and Weltjee, the one a florist, the other an amateur, used to produce them in great perfection at Hammersmith, which was then as crowded as now; Smith, of the Albany-road, Kent-

road, cultivated them well to the day of his death; amateurs in the neighbourhood of Pentonville bloomed them well; Dickson, the best of all the growers for sale, grows them well at Acre-lane, Brixton; and several amateurs only just outside the London smoke have shown them very creditably. But as the growers died, there seemed none to take their places, and although the South London Floricultural Society gave prizes each year, up to 1854, the only exhibition they could raise was indebted to Mr. Dickson for a fine collection. The prizes for amateur exhibitions were never well competed for, and we do not remember to have seen a good pair of flowers shown by any but the dealers since the close of the Metropolitan Society's exhibitions, some years ago. Young aspirants to floral honours buy books on the Auricula, and the mystery and difficulties attendant on their cultivation, according to book authorities, would deter almost anybody from beginning. Maddox, Hogg, Gabel, Groom, and the collection of authors quoted by LOUDON, would frighten any timid person, while the nauseous composts recommended by many of these writers absolutely forbid any person of delicate senses attempting to grow the plant. Wherefore all this mystery and difficulty? The Auricula is not a coarse feeder, that it should require night soil, bullock's blood, sugar baker's scum, and twenty other filthy things, as dictated by men who had a name for growing it. On the contrary, let any one try the following simple compost, and he will soon be satisfied that simple culture is the best. Loam from rotted turves (cut from a healthy pasture, as if for laying down for lawns) two parts, cow dung rotted into mould one part. If the loam be sandy and open, like the true hazel loam, this compost will be admirably adapted for the healthy growth of the Auricula; but if the loam be stiffer than it should be, and the mixture is too adhesive, add as much silver sand (say about one-sixth part of the whole at the most) as will open the pores a little, and allow

water to percolate freely. This, laid together, frequently turned, and mixed, will be found an excellent compost. We do not mean to deny that more exciting compost would grow them faster, and those who grow for sale will admit they use it; but the amateur wants healthy rather than large plants, and perfect rather than monstrous blooms, and as such he should be content with simple compost, in which the plants will continue healthy. We do not mean to deny that just as the bloom stems are rising an occasional watering with liquid manure will give them a fillip at the right time; but even this must be of a positive well-defined quality,—say half-a-peck of well-rotted cow dung, dissolved in ten gallons of water, and it must only be administered once to half-a dozen plain waterings. We have seen large collections which were grown upon the exciting principle successfully for years all destroyed in a season, rotted at the collar, and nothing would stop the decay, so that there was not a score of healthy plants out of fifteen hundred. Of course it was attributed to every cause but the right one, and that was over-exciting them. The difficulties to be got over in cultivating the *Auricula* are trifling and easily got rid of. The necessary conditions are,

First, You must start with healthy plants.

Secondly, The ground or bottom on which the pots must stand should be impervious to moisture, and so laid that water may run off.

Thirdly, The plants must not be potted lower than the collar of the root.

Fourthly, The drainage at the bottom of the pot, whether of broken crocks or lumps of charcoal, must be one-fourth of the height of the pot inside.

Fifthly, The frames should be open always in fine weather.

Sixthly, They should never be watered while they are moist, but, when they are, the water should go through and run away; for all there is to fear is damp, and if the wet can soak into the bottom, the damp vapour will rise and settle on

the plants, which soon feel the ill effects, and will go off.

If these conditions be attended to, there will be no fear of ill health among the plants, and once secure a healthy growth, we may take little liberties at blooming time, if we like to try experiments, with some of the most cheap and plentiful of the varieties. There have been many good lessons on the cultivation of the Auricula, but rest assured that the most simple is the best. Let any one desirous of cultivating this lovely flower begin by purchasing a dozen healthy plants of those who are known to grow them well. According to the old laws of showing, they should be in the exhibiter's hands six weeks, therefore any time this month will do to buy them, and it will be easy to select good blooming plants. Get a common garden frame and light, and pave the bottom, or put two inches thick of concrete, made of lime and sifted gravel, laid perfectly smooth and of a slope, to admit of the surplus water running away. As it is desirable to have the plants as near the glass as possible to leave room, it may be necessary to stand those on pots or pans, to raise them, and then attend to the conditions above-mentioned. Give them all the air you can in mild weather. At the end of this month, stir the surface of the soil as low down as you can without damaging the fibres, and throw out the loosened soil. Then top-dress with cow dung rotted into mould and silver sand enough to make it porous. This will do for your first effort; when you become more experienced, you may venture upon exciting top-dressing; for instance, some use the dung of pigeons or farm-yard poultry, but let that alone at present. In March, the buds will show, and as the plants will begin to grow, they will require more frequent watering. If there be a fine warm shower of rain, let the plants have the full benefit of it, but shut up close at nights, and throw a mat over, for fear of frost. When they begin to show colour, they must have no sun during the middle hours of the day; the sloping rays, early in the morning and

late in the evening, will not hurt them. As the flowers advance, it will perhaps be necessary to reduce the number of pips, by removing some of the least perfect, and to prop the remainder out, separating them by bits of moss or cotton wool between the footstalks, to give the pips room to open flat, otherwise they will crowd each other. The plants should then be removed to a sheltered situation, and be covered with a handglass, so supported on inverted pots that the rim of the handglass will be below the edge of the Auricula pots; by this means they will have plenty of air, but no drought or wind. The disposition of the pips must be examined daily, and where they are inclined to close on each other, the stuffing between the footstalks must be adjusted. During all this time, the plants must be shaded from the sun and well covered at night. When the blooms have fairly opened, and they are intended for show, the only preparation they require is to remove the stuffing from between the foot-stalks and allow the pips to touch each other on the edge, to form a close truss, but not to lap over each other, to lessen the size of the truss. The metropolitan rule was not to show less than seven pips, and that number is by far the most perfect; for if they be all of a size, it allows one pip for the centre and the six just fill up a circle round it, as may be seen by placing seven coins on the table. We should so much rejoice to see this flower again popular, that we shall resume the subject, for the management of the bloom until the time comes round to place them in their winter quarters is very important.

THE COTTAGER'S PAGE.

UNDER the above heading, I hope to supply a series of papers, which, while they are not intended for the "more learned" craft of the gardening world, or the

florist, may not be altogether unacceptable. I am well aware that in the host of readers of the *Midland Florist* there are many who do not belong to either class, but yet who feel deep interest in gardening matters, and are true lovers of Flora in her more simple form.

COTTAGE WALLS.

We have been told that in Great Britain there are fifteen million acres of land out of cultivation, which might be rendered productive. It would be a useful calculation to tell also how many acres of walling in Great Britain are at this time without trees. Such a calculation, I think, would show no small item as to the number of bushels of fruit, acceptable to all classes of society, that might be annually produced. How it is that so little attention is paid to walls of this description I am at a loss to know, as good fruit is always saleable. I know several places in Oxfordshire where the Apricots grown on the walls have been known to pay the rents of the cottages. As to the cost of trees that is a mere trifle, and the management is so simple as to make no excuse for the present scarcity of good wall fruit. Amongst the trees most suitable for cottage walls is the Apricot. A west aspect suits it best; it will also do well on a south wall, and I have seen it succeed on the north-west. There are several varieties of the Apricot, but the best is the Moorpark. Next to the Apricot is the Pear. The following ten would suit the midland counties, but I should advise all who purchase them to order them worked on quince stocks, as they do not grow so luxuriantly as on the pear stock, and begin bearing much sooner. Brown Beurré, suitable for a west wall, in season in December. Beurré Diel, west wall, season November and December. Beurré Rance, very fine on a south wall, in season in January and February. Citron des Carmes, west wall, in season in September. Glout Morceau, fine on a south wall, in season in January and February.

Jargonelle, west wall, in season in August, at which time it is unequalled. Louise Bonne of Jersey, west wall, in season in September and October. Marie Louise I have known do well on a north wall, in season in November. Von Mons. Leon Leclerc requires a south wall, in season in November. Winter Nelis, north-east or north-west wall, in season in December. Of Plums, the best sorts are the Jefferson, in season in September, a good table fruit. Kirk's Plum, in season in August, a table fruit. Orleans (Wilmot's), in season in August, a good kitchen fruit. Reine Claude Violette, in season in September and October, a good bearer and good table fruit. Denyer's Victoria, in season in September, a good table fruit. Grapes, Peaches, and Nectarines I do not think suitable for cottage cultivation, the first requiring more care than they could receive, and the others not being of such general use as some fruits in household economy. A selection from the above would not only form a source of profit, but would also add a neatness of finish to our now bare cottage walls.

But where profit gives way to ornament, what a host of beautiful evergreens we have for the purpose of decoration. First of all, there is the common Ivy, with its variegated varieties. Then there is the *Cotoneaster microphylla*, with its splendid scarlet berries; indeed, in my estimation, this plant stands A 1, from its very neat manner of growth, and fruitfulness, when planted against a wall. Then we have the beautiful *Pyracantha*, loaded with its bunches of scarlet berries. The yellow-fruited one makes a good variety. In flowering wall plants, we have the sweet-scented Jasmine. I have at this time (Jan. 5) a plant of *Jasminum multiflora* loaded with its beautiful yellow blossoms, on an open wall. There are the many varieties of honeysuckle; which, during the summer months, spread so delicious a perfume round many a cottage door; the *Glycine sinensis*, with its thousands of purple Laburnum-like blossoms;

and the Virginian Creeper, with its crimson-coloured leaves in autumn. Add to these Roses, and several other plants which might be named, and I think there can be but little reason why every cottage wall throughout the land should not contribute to our pleasures, either useful or ornamental, while we have so many plants and trees suitable for the purpose.

W. S.

NOTES ON THE TULIP FANCY.

FOR many years, the northern growers paid much more attention to the marking of a Tulip than did those of the south, and the disposition of the stripes, the feather, the flame, or the beam, was considered of the highest importance. When "the Properties of the Tulip" were first discussed, settled, and published, under the patronage, as it were, of the Metropolitan Society, they established, as the first and most stringent of all rules, that the base of the flower should be pure and stainless, whether white, yellow, or any of the shades of cream, sulphur, or straw colour between those extremes; and it need hardly be mentioned that this threw many finely-marked Tulips out of cultivation. That this point was essential, and, carried out, as it was, by disqualifying every stained flower at the shows, fatal to many varieties previously tolerated, cannot be denied. Indeed such was the great attention paid to this one condition, that other faults were tolerated to a great extent, partly from a false taste, that had long prevailed, and which set up a very absurd standard of "finesness." You might see a southern grower exulting over the "finesness" of his bed, which, to a judge, scarcely had a dozen varieties in character,—all the beauty, in his eyes, consisted in absence of colour. A Louis XVI. was called splendid when it was nearly all white, here and there a little bit of

black feathering, not a single petal at all uniform, not two petals like each other, and, in short, nothing beyond the singularity of being as little like the proper character as possible. A Polyphenus, as remarkable for lightness and absence of the proper feathering, with a few streaks here and there on the edge of some of the petals, very black, and pretty as far as they went, would be held up as a prodigy of "fineness;" and generally an entire bed, remarkable for the light colouring of the majority of the flowers, was, by too many, considered a fine bloom. "The Properties of the Tulip," however, did not justify this. The unbroken feathering, whether light or heavy,—the uniformity of the six petals, whether flamed or feathered, was insisted on as points essential to good flowers. The form of the cup, "from one-third to half a hollow ball," was no less important than the marking, and yet, for years, the southern growers lost sight of everything but the clean base. It need not astonish us then that the northern growers pertinaciously stood up for their markings, and, as if there were no choice between fine character and no character at all, for years repudiated the notion that a pure base was the only passport to a prize. As, however, "the Properties of Tulips," as laid down for the south, did not justify irregular marking, nor the absence of marking, time and discussion showed that the very point valued by many—extreme lightness, as well as imperfections in the disposition of the colour—was not founded upon any law laid down, nor by the absence of instruction on any point, and therefore was abandoned by all sensible growers. The perfection of a tulip would be recognized by a tyro, as compared with an imperfect one. Public taste would point out one from thousands. The shape half a hollow ball (or less), upper edge even, unbroken feathering all round the outer rim, base broad and pure with no stripe nor colour near it, petals thick and smooth, setting close to each other, and all six marked alike. There are not many that will

answer this description, but there are those that approach, and each year adds some in which further advances may be traced. The great evil that the 'Tulip fancy has to contend with, is the many names borne by one variety. But this is an evil upon the increase, and that will continue to increase, so long as seedlings are brought to public auction, and are divided among many growers. We buy breeders of Mr. Strong, or rather at his sale, but twenty others do the same. We break a flower, and name it; in time, the others break a flower, and also name it, till at length we have all the same flowers under so many different names, and it takes years to make growers acquainted with the fact. But there has been another cause of confusion with respect to names. There has been a wilful renaming of Tulips, and that by the most respectable men in the trade,—that is, so far as station goes. Thus the flower called Sanzoe, or Captain White, came very fine indeed, one season, in a grower's bed, so much so as to cause people to ask what it was, and the owner could not resist the opportunity of calling it Captain Black. A popular grower imported two Dutch flowers, called Sans Egale, or something like it, and a very bright rose it was for an outside row. Mr. Strong, a spirited grower and buyer, saw the two growing, and wanted sadly to know what they were, and also to buy. The grower pretended he did not want to sell, but if he did, he would have ten guineas for the two,—the importing price being about a guinea each. The bargain made, the name was wanted. The real one would enable others to import, so they were sold as Rose Juliana. And the changing of names in cases where Dutch flowers are imported, was by no means uncommon, if unknown to most English growers. But growers who break flowers which they know to have been named before, will, from some motive or other, give new names, even if they do not want to sell. They like new names in their own books. The late Mr. Groom would annually give new names to

any of the flowers that came above the average quality, and put exorbitant prices on them. It was not done with a view to sell, but to astonish the gentry, who considered fifty or a hundred guineas a large price for a tulip, and perhaps would have been more so, if they had known that the same variety might have been had, under its own name, for five shillings. All this calls for a remedy, and that remedy can only be found in SOCIETY. All the cultivators of the Tulip would benefit by social meetings. It is not by great public exhibitions that floriculture gains. It is by all the smaller societies, at the meetings of which the flower is talked of, specimens are exhibited, errors are corrected, information is received, and, as a climax, when the annual private show takes place, the flowers are brought to the table, novelties are pointed out, and everybody learns something. Societies exist in the neighbourhood of London, in which every man is bound to show his best, whether it be good, bad, or indifferent. There are as many prizes as members, and all the pans of Tulips are placed. There is a little difference in the prizes, and but little,—the first may be sixpence better than the second, and the second as much better than the third, and so on down to the last, but the last has a prize worth taking. In these societies, the members perhaps pay a shilling a month, enough is retained to pay for a good entertainment, and the rest divided; and, the floral world may think as it will, it is these healthy little rivulets that feed the great stream of floriculture, that, without their aid, would long since have dried. Tulips have, however, had a sad fall, the last two years: Of all the sales that have taken place the last two or three seasons, not one has produced a fourth of a proper sale value. Mr. Goldham's finest varieties have been turned upon the world at absurdly low prices; Mr. Lawrence's noble bed, the best he has ever sold, whatever he may say of it, brought scarcely a fourth of its auction worth;

Mr. Norman, Mr. Edwards, and others, may be set down among the martyrs to ignorance and mismanagement, in the disposal of their finest flowers; and Mr. Groom's sale, which hardly paid for the bags which held the lots, was the climax of sacrifices. But there needed something like this to put the good flowers into more hands. A more humble class of cultivators has been able to get the vaunted ten guinea varieties at twenty or twenty-five shillings each, and we sincerely hope that we may now have young aspirants to tread in the shoes of old enthusiasts, for they have been for years dropping off. We believe that the distribution of many fine flowers at prices which enabled very humble growers to buy them, has put fresh life into some of those societies by which so much of the spirit of floriculture has been kept up, and to which we owe much of the success which has been achieved in the production of new and good varieties. Probably a few hints on some of the peculiarities of the culture may, at a future time, be acceptable among the younger growers, for it is to the succession of cultivators we must look for real advancement.

LINNÆUS.

CHRYSANTHEMUMS.

I HAVE read with much pleasure the remarks of T. W. (page 9), on the Chrysanthemum, and as my treatment differs materially, I give my practice, at the same time hoping your readers will not think me obtrusive, as a trial of the different modes of management is the only means of arriving at the correct system. To begin (perhaps at the wrong end first), as soon as the plants have done flowering, they are cut down, shaken out of the pot, and planted in a sheltered out-of-the-way place, where they remain till the beginning of April, by which time they will

have made shoots two or three inches long. The cuttings taken off, they are potted singly, in small sixties, in a mixture of leaf-mould and sand. I attach much importance to the cuttings being put in the pots singly, as, when repotted, the roots are not again disturbed, consequently they receive little or no check. Having previously prepared a slight hot-bed, the pots containing the cuttings should be plunged therein, and the frame kept closed for the first few days after potting; but as soon as rooted, which may be seen by the plants beginning to grow, air should be admitted gradually, till the lights are wholly taken off. When the pots are filled with roots, they should be repotted into thirty-twos, or quarts, using a mixture of good loam and manure,—two-thirds of the former and one of the latter. When potted, place them in the open air, on a layer of ashes, or on tiles, keeping them thin, so as to allow the air to pass freely amongst them. As soon as they are about five or six inches high, take off the top, which will cause them to throw out from six to ten shoots each. When the quart pots are filled with roots, repot again into halfpeck pots, using the same soil as before. As they get larger, give more room between them, so as to allow each plant to become a perfect specimen. When the stems begin to get some inches long, place a neat stick to each stem, and tie them out. As soon as the large-flowered ones have made their buds large enough to admit the points of a pair of scissors, thin all the buds off with the exception of the strongest one to each stem, by which these last will be greatly benefitted, both in size and form. Few persons can form any idea of the beauty of a plant treated as above, and bearing from six to ten blossoms. The pounpons receive the same treatment as the large-flowered ones, with the exception of the thinning, they not requiring it. During the whole management, great care is taken that they receive plenty of moisture, as nothing is of greater importance, the *Chrysanthemum* being

what is called a gross feeder, I always water my plants with a mixture of liquid manure, say a pint to a gallon of water. This keeps the plants growing fast, and causes them to have a beautiful dark foliage to the very pots. The plants are kept out of doors till the beginning of October, when they are removed to a greenhouse, where the lights can be left open both day and night, except in cases of frost; but where there is not the convenience of a greenhouse, they may be bloomed under an awning, or any like protection, provided they have plenty of air.

W. S.

ON THE CULTIVATION OF THE FUCHSIA.

HAVING been a successful cultivator of this graceful flower, and having been awarded nearly all the first prizes, for some years, at the Nottingham shows, I have thought it might be interesting, as well as useful, to the amateur and young gardener, to give a detail of some of the principal features of my mode of cultivation,—particularly as regards economy, simplicity, and the certainty of success.

I take my last year's plants, and repot them, giving them a good soaking of water, and then place them in the warmest part of the greenhouse. This should be done in December, or early in January, as soon as they have made shoots about two or three inches long; I select those cuttings which are of strong growth and have no appearance of blooming (early bloomers never make good specimens), and put each cutting separately into a small pot, plunging it into a bottom heat, where the cutting will soon take root. The soil I use for this purpose is one part of leaf mould, one of peat, one of loam, one of sheep dung, with some silver sand, mixed well together. I then pot off the cuttings into halfpints, plunge

them into a good bottom heat, and as soon as the roots make their appearance round the pot sides, repot them into larger sizes, according to the growth of the plants. By keeping them in bottom heat they will grow vigorously, and soon make good plants. Place a stick in the centre of the pots, and tie the plants, to keep them upright. They will soon begin to make side shoots, and when they are three or four joints long stop them. Do this to all the joints that are near the bottom at once, so that they may all break at one time. Continue to stop the young shoots from the bottom upwards. Care must be taken not to get the leader injured, or the appearance of the specimen will be unsightly. By this treatment, and careful training, you may get plants whose branches hang with graceful regularity from the top to the bottom of the stem,—not like those we often see, mere bundles of sticks, resembling half-formed bird-cages. The *growth* of the plant, in my opinion, adds as much to its beauty as the flowers.

B. TAYLOR, *Grove Cottage.*

FLORICULTURE AS IT WAS AND IS.

BY GEORGE GLENNY, F.H.S.

“ Young florists *think* old florists are fools, but old florists *know* that young florists are.”

WHEN floriculture was indebted for its fame to men of humble station, there was something like straightforward dealing. A man paid a good price for a good thing, and it was worth all it cost. If a grower raised a good Pink, Picotee, or Carnation, all his floral friends knew how many pairs he possessed, and it was a common transaction to get subscribers for his stock, at so much the pair, to realize him so much for the whole. When a raiser had got, say twenty pairs, the value was pretty fairly estimated among the neighbouring florists. He obtained, per-

haps, twenty subscribers, say at a guinea, and every buyer knew he had a twentieth part of *the whole stock in the country*. How is it now that nurserymen have begun dealing in florists' flowers? Why, they give a raiser, for aught we know, all the money he would get by subscribers, and before they let it out, they multiply it a hundredfold. If they let it out at half-price, what do we get? Why, instead of a twentieth share of the whole stock, for a guinea, we get a thousandth, or, for aught we know, a two-thousandth share, for half-a-guinea. Instead of a variety being choice and in demand for years, gradually getting cheaper as it becomes more plentiful, it comes down all at once, and the profits, instead of being disseminated among the class of men to whom floriculture owes everything, pass into the hands of the monopolist, who, at one fell swoop, takes all. The flower is no longer valuable,—it descends, the first year, to the lowest price that is worth taking for the trouble of propagation, and becomes one of the hundreds that we see in all catalogues, at per dozen or per hundred. In the one case, the raiser is satisfied, and sees twenty of his neighbours possess the flower he has raised; these neighbours strive to make increase, and can obtain half-a-guinea a pair the next season, perhaps sell two pair, and get their money back; being in demand, it does not drop to less than a crown the second year, and then all who bought at a guinea and all who purchased at half-a-guinea, would be making the most of their increase; and so for years these homely working bees would be deriving a benefit from their little investment, while the raiser himself, with his pair, would participate in the benefits, all the way down to the lowest price. In fact, a new and good flower was of benefit to scores of persons, whereas under the present system it benefits nobody but the monopolist, and even the raiser receives but his first fee. Let some of our northern friends look back for a few years, and

contemplate the history of certain flowers raised by their neighbours, distributed in shares, bearing a good, though, of course, gradually declining price for years, and benefitting all who had to do with them. Then let them consider the sudden transfer of others of later years to dealers, who multiplied them until there were more than would supply the wants of all, and knocked them down to weed price the year they came out. The question is this, are not the true thorough English florists, who are for the most part amateurs, and the nurserymen who grasp at everything, diametrically opposed in interest? and if so, ought not florists to unite and resist the monopoly? There is a much greater evil in the modern system than that we have mentioned. When a score cultivators of a favourite flower subscribed for a novelty, they all knew what it was. They were never "taken in" with a worthless thing, because they were familiar with it; but now, John Nokes the dealer, buys a flower of Tom Styles the raiser, and he purchases a second of Bill Snooks; the immediate neighbours of these gentlemen know what the flowers are, whether good or good for nothing, but John Nokes, in a season or two, puts out a flaming advertisement of the two grand acquisitions. Perhaps he and two or three others interested in similar bargains give each other "first-class certificates," and the floral world is astounded by the excellent characters the novelties bear, and eagerly buy them; perhaps, for it is the case in three of every four, perhaps find them not worth a farthing. So that, independently of the subscribers, who were security for the worth of a thing, losing the advantage of their little trading, the public have lost all the chance of distinguishing between good and bad, and, which is no credit to certain dealers, have, for the last few years been taken in to the amount of thousands; because apparently respectable men boast of what they have done, as if all they sent out were good, and *guarantee* things of the first

class, when they know that nine out of twelve are comparatively worthless. But this is an unpleasant subject, and we will return to the comparative advantage of the old and new systems, as shown by the old method of letting out novelties and the present. There is so much difference, and that difference so much to the advantage of early subscribers, that we would urge above all things,

First, That all raisers of good novelties should, as soon as they have enough to let out, fix a price, as it used to be done, and let it be subscribed for by ten or twenty, or more, if necessary, but resist selling at all to what are called nurserymen.

Second, That the sterling florists,—we mean the practical men, to whom we owe all that is good in floriculture, should communicate freely with each other, through this work, and if need be, through some of the weekly ones also, as if they really were united in the one great object, the advancement of the science.

Thirdly, That they should, if possible, form themselves into a society, which could be maintained by a most trifling subscription, through which, having a central place of business in London, all the members might be informed of any good novelty for sale upon the subscription principle; and through which the members might be warned of any attempt to pass off a spurious variety.

The true intent and meaning of the caution, and the advice contained herein, is to promote, if possible, a return to the system of dealing with each other in known good things, and discouraging a system which, if it have no other evil effect, withholds from the floral world even a good thing, until it is multiplied to an extent that renders it common and a drug the very first season it is out. Nobody would begrudge a guinea for one-twentieth share of a good flower, because it is years before it ceases to be in demand, and he is sure to make it answer his purpose; but half the money for a thing of which

there are thousands, for which there can be no demand, and the possession of which only places us on a par with a thousand other people, is too much, by all that it exceeds the price of any other that has ceased to be wanted. A shilling for one of a thousand is dearer than a guinea for one of twenty, and there will be nothing like equitable dealing, until the holder of a stock is made to declare how many plants he possesses. A Dahlia of fifty, if a good one, would be cheap at a guinea, but the idea of putting one out at half a guinea, when it is one of five hundred, and not better than what we already possess of the same colour, is too bad. The same argument applies to all sorts of florists' flowers, the majority of which, that are good for anything, are still raised by amateurs. For however nurserymen, with their large collections, are, year after year, raising seedlings, they produce very few, compared with the number they buy, and they are, without much exception, the worst judges of what the true florists value.



THE RASPBERRY

Is the most prolific and best preserving fruit grown. This being the best time for making new plantations, allow me to make a few observations on my mode of treatment. The ground should be trenched eighteen inches deep and two feet wide. If the soil be wet and sad, put in plenty of river sand, and half-rotten manure. Let the whole be well worked, ready for planting. The plants should be put in eighteen inches apart, in single row. Do not tread round the stems to fasten them, as this is objectionable, but leave the earth as light as possible. Place mulch around them a good thickness. Strong clean healthy canes should be chosen for planting. Fastolff is the sort I would recommend. By this mode of planting,

one row will produce very near as great a weight of fruit as *three* on the old system, or what is called the bunch-growing plan. The fruit is also very superior in size and flavour. At the beginning of February, cut down the canes to within two feet of the soil. Towards the latter end of April, keep the ground well watered; let the mulch be just drawn from the crown, that the fresh shoots may have no obstacle, but do not take it away. As the shoots appear, take off all but three of the strongest. This should be done throughout the growing season.

T. W.

PRUNING.

PEACHES, Nectarines, and Apricots should be forwarded as much as possible this month, before the blossom buds are far advanced, or many of them will be unavoidably rubbed off in pruning and nailing. There is little or no difference to be observed in pruning these trees, they all produce their fruit principally upon the shoots of the previous summer, the fruit blossoms rising directly from the eyes of these shoots, a plentiful supply of which must be annually reserved for bearing in every part of the trees. They also bear on the small natural spurs on the two or three-year old wood, and these will be found most frequently on the Apricot. All such spurs should therefore be carefully preserved, for they generally produce the best fruit. Retain those shoots which are of moderately strong growth and appear the most fruitful, cutting out all that are weakly and long-jointed, and also those of thick spongy growth. The young shoots that are left for bearing must be shortened. Without this precaution, they are apt to run up, and leave the bottom of the branch naked. They should be cut to an eye, or wood bud, that is likely to produce a shoot for a leader the

ensuing season; for where a leading shoot is produced at the end of the bearing branch, it draws nourishment to the fruit. I have frequently seen Peaches and Nectarines pruned without observing where they are cut, leaving nothing but bloom buds on the branch, by which treatment the trees soon become unsightly, and die away. After pruning a tree, nail it as a you go on, laying in the branches and shoots horizontally straight and parallel to each other, about five or six inches apart, fastening them all close to the wall, in a neat manner.

Apples, Pears, Plums, and Cherries, both espaliers and those against walls, should be finished pruning this month. Lay in the branches at full length, as far as space will admit, as the main branches remain many years in a fruitful state, if properly managed. Train them regularly and straightly, and cut away all useless shoots close to the place from whence they proceed. The fruit spurs are produced on the sides and ends of the branches which are from one to two inches in length, and are of a plump robust growth. Nail or tie the branches about eight inches or a foot apart.

P. P.

HUNT'S SWEETWILLIAMS.

WE have this month received nine different opinions of these flowers, six of which speak more or less highly of the new varieties, while three speak rather disparagingly. We insert one letter each way. Those of Hunt's flowers we have seen were really most splendid, and we think that some mistake must have been the cause of such disappointment as that manifested.—EDS.

Having been the first to recognize the noble advance made by Mr. Hunt in this flower, I am rather astonished at the reckless manner in which your

anonymous Dublin correspondent denounces them. Am I to conclude that he is profoundly ignorant of what they ought to be, and that he prefers the ragged saw-edged gaudy things of old to symmetry, and novelty, and beauty; or that he has been taken-in with spurious varieties. If the former, let him consult "the Properties of Flowers," before he sets up his own judgment; if the latter, he has no right to denounce a good thing because somebody has given him a bad one in its name, for the "sell," as he elegantly calls it, must have been the substitution. I had a letter from a gentleman who fancied he knew everything, telling me "I ought to be ashamed of recommending Carter's Prolific Raspberry, when it was nothing but Fastolff, under a new name;" but our knowing friend had gone to a cheap shop, but a wrong shop. He had got Fastolff, it is true, and he had paid fifteen shillings per hundred, while Carter's was selling freely at five pounds. Many a good thing gets injured this way, and it must have been so with your Dublin correspondent; because Mr. Hunt is an amateur. He made nothing by his improvement, but presented the advanced varieties to a nurseryman he desired to serve. There are hundreds who saw, as I did, twenty or thirty varieties, good in all their points, throwing all others into the shade; and if rubbish has been sent out in his name, it is rather presumptuous in any one to visit a honourable man with his vituperation.

GEORGE GLENNY.

Fulham, January 11.

I notice, in answer to my inquiry, in your October number, your correspondent, L., Dublin, has given, in No. 108, his opinion of the Sweetwilliams sent out a year ago as "Hunt's," emphatically calling them "*vile*;" and this is a correct expression, if those got by him were similar to those sent to this neighbourhood. "*Trash*" is the descriptive term used here regarding them, and I believe they cannot

be more correctly described; they are, in fact, quite beneath criticism. L. says it is an extensive "*sell*." We call it here an extensive "*case of do*,"—terms of similar import, the plain English of which I dare say your readers generally understand. My object in requesting information respecting these Sweetwilliams from your readers, was to learn if they had been, over the country, as bad as they were here (and I think we may presume such to have been the case, since no one has noticed them favourably), and if so, thus publicly to denounce them, and exhibit a moral resentment at such a nefarious transaction as the palming them on the public seems to have been. But ere finishing, I will put the query, can anything be done to put a stop to such tricks? or do they work their own cure, as they would amongst other classes of tradesmen? I am afraid they do not, and for this reason,—growers are much too anxious to possess *new* things, and thus become the easy prey of designing dealers; and while I would not in the least extenuate the culpability of such dealers, I must say, too much blame attaches also to those who encourage them. If growers would resolve—and act accordingly—not to purchase anything they had not previously seen, or had not been recommended by those on whose opinion they can place confidence, such deception could not be practised, and thereby all parties would be benefitted,—the dealers would be more honest, and the growers would be richer, by saving many an otherwise-thrown-away pound.

A SUBSCRIBER.

Never transplant shrubs and trees in a growing state. However carefully it may be done, the check is dangerous, if not fatal.

Never look out for cheap seed shops. It is only by getting good prices that a seedsman can supply articles to be depended on.

NEW PLANTS.



SCARLET GERANIUMS.—*Countess of Warwick*, variegated foliage, large truss of deep scarlet flowers, fine form. *Annie* is a decided improvement on Flower of the Day and Silver King, possessing fine large trusses of bright scarlet flowers, foliage large and flat, margined with pure white, good bedder and free grower. The noble Geranium, *General Pelissier*, has been the admiration of all who have seen it, either in pots or bedded out, throwing up its numerous globular trusses of orange scarlet flowers on strong white stalks. The flower is of fine form, with white eye, and the plant of compact vigorous growth; the leaves medium size, with dark green margin, distinct horse-shoe, paler green in the centre.

EXANTHUS PYRAMIDALIS FLOREPLENO.—This magnificent plant has large flowers, of a brilliant carmine outside and fine blue inside, with golden spots in the interior of the petal. Its perfume resembles that of the violet. Stem robust, rising to the height of six feet. It flowers from four to five months, and early; resists the greatest cold, and may be cultivated in pots, in an apartment, or in a greenhouse.—[Communicated.]

DOUBLE WHITE PETUNIA IMPERIAL.—Amongst the novelties for the decoration of the flower garden, this year, will be the double white Petunia, said to be as double as the Oleander, and fragrant. If it is really pure white, and a free bloomer, it cannot fail to be valuable as a bedding plant.



Keep your plants clean. Dust and dirt on leaves make the plant unhealthy, and will in time kill it.

EXTRACTS, HINTS, AND RECOLLECTIONS.

GOOD PANSIES.

DARK SELFS.—Duke of Sutherland, Memnon, Duke of Perth.

YELLOW GROUNDS.—Father Gavazzi, Emperor, Lord Palmerston, Owen Glendower, Charles Turner, Magnificent.

YELLOW SELFS.—Adela, Seedling No. 2, Seedling No. 9. The two last, raised in the neighbourhood of Nottingham, are well known.

WHITE SELFS.—Blanche, Eliza, Seedling No. 1.

LIGHT GROUNDS.—Marchioness of Bath, Climax (very fine), Marion, Miss Talbot, National, Mrs. Stewart, Royal Standard, Earl of Mansfield, Seedling No. 5.

Lady Emily, Seedling No. 4.

FLORICULTURE.

BY J. EDWARDS, F.H.S.

[From *Rendle's Price Current and Garden Directory*.]

[Continued from page 25.]

THE Scarlet Pelargonium is everybody's flower. Of the many named sorts under cultivation, few have attained a popularity equal to that of Tom Thumb; and here florists claim a fair share of consideration for their endeavours to give us improved varieties. That a reward has been gained is self-evident, for not only have we brilliant scarlet flowers, but also variegated foliage, the combination of which renders the bedding Pelargonium almost perfection. The growth, or habit, as it is termed, is as varied as the foliage and flower, and many of them are sufficiently dwarf in stature to be valuable for edgings to clumps and beds. The name of Tom Thumb would lead us to a belief that this variety must necessarily exhibit the minimum amount of growth. That such

was once its character cannot be denied, but there is this peculiarity connected with the art of the florist—he is constantly surpassing the work of his own hands. Mr. Ingram, of the Royal Gardens, Frogmore, has raised a seedling, named Princess Royal, of such compact habit, that its growth is not much more than half that of Tom Thumb. It has remarkably neat leaves, constantly and regularly banded with dense brown, which is termed horse-shoe foliage. This variety is desirable for its attractiveness, but possesses little merit as a flower, for, although of good colour, it is sadly deficient in form, the petals being narrow: time will doubtless supply the deficiency. Queen of England, raised by the same florist (we feel that Mr. Ingram will not repudiate the appellation), and named after his royal mistress, possesses brilliancy of colour, well-defined bold horse-shoe foliage, and is of medium stature. This is a charming sort, and should be freely cultivated. Amazon and Defiance are of the most robust habit, and produce trusses of bloom of corresponding size. These are admirably adapted for blinds to walls, or for the backs of borders. Reidii is a first-class sort. Of the cerise or cherry-coloured varieties, Cerise Unique, Trentham Rose, and Rubens must not be passed by without notice. A belt of Golden Chain, Flower of the Day, Silver King, Admiration, Brilliant, Mountain of Light, Lady Plymouth, or other sorts with variegated foliage, produces a charming effect; and every season increases our means for the grouping of flowers—one of the distinctive features of gardening in this day.

They who, by contiguity of residence, are enabled to attend with some regularity the meetings of the National Floricultural Society, at 21, Regent-street, will find at every exhibition ample material for gratification. At these meetings, all new florists' flowers are put as it were upon their trial; and though it must in all candour be admitted that many of them can boast of very moderate pretensions

only, it may be laid down as a rule, that *everything good is sure to find its way there*, and as the freest access is obtainable, it is not surprising that these meetings should be the occasion when florists "most do congregate." In connection both with the Scarlet Geranium and the National Floricultural Society, the name of Mr. Kinghorn may be properly associated. Kinghorn's Azaleas and Kinghorn's Epacris have long sounded as "household words," and now Kinghorn's Geraniums advance to complete the triad.

Although the Dahlia is more peculiarly adapted to the purposes of exhibition than those of decoration, it is by no means without its value in the latter capacity, and there are many sorts very suitable for it under special circumstances. It is highly ornamental, it gives an abundance of flowers in regular and continuous succession; its colours are brilliant, and include every conceivable shade, blue only excepted. It is of robust and vigorous habit, and is sufficiently long-lived to bloom throughout one entire season. Lack of hardiness is certainly a drawback, but it is one which is shared by many other flowers, and this want is amply compensated by the facility with which it is propagated. We have heard it said, "What a pity the Dahlia lacks scent,"—seek for that in the Rose, say we. Notwithstanding all this, the Dahlia needs space to flourish well, and there is a want of grace in its bulk as a bush, which deters some from using it for general decorative purposes. Its supremacy as a flower (*lumpish* though it be), or rather as *the flower* of early autumn, is indisputable, and it would be an act little short of treason to refuse our homage to the "King of Autumn." Examine a good Dahlia of the present day,—they may be found by hundreds at our leading exhibitions—and then cast your eye upon the representation of one which was deemed perfect some twenty years ago—there are plenty of such portraits to be found in our garden periodicals. "Look well upon *this* picture and on *that*," and you cannot fail to be astonished at what floriculture has done for the

flower. It may not be generally known that the Dahlia is an important article of commerce, and that the annual outlay for its purchase is immense. It maintains at the present day as high a money value as it commanded at the period of its first introduction and general distribution. The purchase of a recognized **FIRST-CLASS DAHLIA** is not accomplished by the outlay of a few pounds,—a new variety which has been fairly tested, is as likely to bring a hundred pounds as any other sum; more has been given, and will in all probability again be given, for any *bona fide* improvement on existing varieties, or for a really meritorious novelty. It is a positive fact, that more money annually changes hands for the Dahlia than for any other florists' flower. As the object of these remarks is avowedly to give information to those seeking commendable material for bedding and border display, a brief list is appended of sorts which claim some one or more of the following requisites:—Attractiveness, freedom, habit, and variety.

FIRST-CLASS DAHLIAS BEST ADAPTED FOR DECORATIVE PURPOSES.

Amazon	Espartero	Robert Bruce
Admiral Dundas	Fanny Keynes	Rose of England
Agincourt	George Glenny	Rachel Rawlings
Beauty of Slough	Indispensable	Rir R. Whittington
Constancy	Lord Bath	Sir F. Bathurst
Cossack	Pre-eminent	Triumphant
Essex Triumph	Queen of Whites	

FIRST-CLASS FANCY DAHLIAS OF GOOD HABIT.

Admiration	Duchess of Kent	Mrs. Willis
Attraction	Elizabeth	Reine des Fleurs
Butterfly	Gloire de Kain	Surpriser
Duchesse de Brabant	Marvel	Topsy

The above were selected from considerably more than one hundred varieties, under cultivation, perhaps the best in England, and in the very height of their flowering season.

The Hollyhock is now so constantly associated with the Dahlia, and their contiguity is so ad-

vantageous to the pretensions of both, that it would be an act of impolicy to separate them in this place. Whatever doubts may exist as to the capabilities of the former as a first-rate decorative flower, there can be none as to the indefeasable claims of the latter. Its pretensions are, in every sense, of the *highest order*, and it has attained an *elevation* to which the florist *looks up* with admiration. A few years of attention and energy have sufficed to *raise* the Hollyhock into importance almost unrivalled, and florists are not wanting, aye, and men of mark too, who would give it place before the Dahlia. There can be no necessity for discussing the question, which, in truth, could never be settled. It is a matter of individual taste. The only conclusion that could by any possibility be arrived at, would be the celebrated one of Sir Roger de Coverley, that "much may be said on both sides." It will be readily admitted that the Hollyhock surpasses the Dahlia as a purely ornamental flower. Exhibited in detached flowers, it may never become a very formidable rival, and it is in this way only they can be brought fairly into juxtaposition. When shown in spikes, by the way, the only method in which it can be shown, to do it justice, the effect is, beyond description, magnificent. Two such exhibitions have been witnessed in London, with what result is now a matter of history. Let all who desire to see the Hollyhock in its best dress, attend the next autumnal display at a London flower show.

Having thus discoursed on the adaptability of a few florists' subjects to the purposes of general usefulness, a few words must be devoted to the flower of flowers—the Rose, to which some slight allusion has already been made. No enumeration of popular flowers can be complete, if the Rose be not included. Although much has been said in its praise, so universally is it admired, so plainly does it stand forth in advance of every other flower in cultivation, so deservedly is it recognized as the floral queen, that it seems almost a work of supererogation to pursue the subject further in this place.

Present a fresh-culled bunch of flowers, containing but *one* Rose, to your fair friends, you will be sure of hearing some such exclamations as these, uttered in a tone of unmistakeable delight, "What a dear Rose!" "How delightfully fragrant!" "I am so thankful for that bouquet, and this love of a Rose!" Cupid may be blind, but his reputed residence amongst Roses bespeaks a discrimination which does him infinite credit.

THE AMERICAN BLIGHT.—My mode of curing this pest of fruit trees is as follows:—I take a three-grained fork, and comb away the soil as far as is convenient, leaving the roots bare till the sap begins to flow. I then chop up as much loamy turf as will cover them, fork up the ends of roots, and lay them near the surface, say within four inches, and then cover up to the level, with the above turf. At this time, I give the trees a good scrubbing with soft soap and a little black pepper, ground fine, and mixed well up together with as much clay as will make the mixture of the consistence of thick paint. I well brush this into the crevices of the bark, and lay a good thickness of litter round the tree, but *no manure*. I find this, by proper attention, to remove all traces of blight.—T. W.

THE CRYSTAL PALACE SHOWS FOR 1856.—By common consent, the eyes of many devout worshippers have been turned, of late, to the Crystal Palace, as a fitting temple for the celebration of the high festivals of their beloved goddess Flora. The exhibition, last summer, was in every respect worthy of the place, and great was the expectation that it would have been followed by a series of displays such as the world never saw. An autumnal show at the Crystal Palace appeared to be the earnest desire of the most influential exhibitors, and we believe something akin to disappointment was experienced, when it was ascertained that no such event would take place. How brilliant and magnificent an affair a well ma-

naged flower show on a large scale may be made, let Cremorne and Brighton testify. We really believe that the most vivid imagination would fail to depict the glories of an autumnal exhibition in the fairy edifice at Sydenham. But we need not tax imagination, now that we are promised reality. We have much pleasure in being enabled to announce the dates of two exhibitions to be held there during the present year. The first will take place on Saturday, May 24th, Her Majesty the Queen's birth-day; and the second on Wednesday, September 10th. So far the management has evinced a prudent disposition in giving early publicity to the days fixed, and we hope no less alacrity will be shown in the promulgation of further particulars. An early schedule conduces very largely to ensure a plentiful amount of competition; and it is only fair to intending exhibitors, that they should have ample notice of what is to be required of them. If this be done, we shall no more hear of many important prizes "not taken," as occurred at the first exhibition. We have said on a previous occasion, that, give them but timely notice, English gardeners can do anything. Let them have such timely notice, and we have small doubt that the forthcoming exhibitions at the Crystal Palace will fully establish the truth of our assertion.—*Edwards's Garden Almanack.*

FRUIT RECEIVED FROM MR. HAYTHORN, GARDENER TO THE RIGHT HON. LORD MIDDLETON.—The seedling Pears are all good, but No. 4 excels, and possesses the following qualities:—Medium size, good form, and footstalk in proportion; the skin is thin, flesh pale pink, melting, and of fine flavour. Among the seedling Apples, the best is the one stated to be raised from the Rempstone Pippin. It is larger and of a lighter colour than that variety, not so good a table fruit, but excellent when cooked. The flesh is as white as the Normanton Wonder, and has the flavour of the Quince.

NOTES AND QUERIES.



WESTON-SUPER-MARE POTTERIES.—Has any of your readers tried pots from the Phillips pottery? I ask because, having used his ten-inch pots, for Carnations, five years, and finding them as sound as they were when new, I should like to know if they have been tried by others. A. B.

At Buckingham Gardens, the grass lawns, of which there are some acres, are mowed by a one-horse Shank's machine. I am told they have a hand one in Sheffield Botanic Gardens. How does it answer? P.

IRIS PUMILA.—There is some talk in floral circles of a dwarf Iris (*Iris pumila*) which blooms sky-blue, at the same time as early Tulips. I see no mention of it in books. Paxton gives three varieties of *Iris pumila*, purple, yellow, and white, but says nothing of a sky-blue. D.

LADY PAXTON GERANIUM is described as a white flower, with crimson purple veins on the top petals, and three ruby spots on the lower petals. Rare and beautiful, if true, but has anybody seen it? If it comes out as thirty did in a season, at a very frightfully high figure, we must all wait a year. P.P.

SEEDS.—How can the floral public reconcile these two announcements? "Twenty-four best annuals, five shillings; the best twelve, three shillings." "One hundred packets of seed for five shillings." Is it the different size of the packets, or quality of the seed? ADY.

CUTTINGS INSTEAD OF PLANTS.—Twelve *Fuchsia* cuttings, in a thin box, went four hundred miles, for sixpence postage. Twelve plants, in a basket, would have cost seven or eight shillings, and been a good while on the road. This opens a new and encouraging field for amateurs. Has any of your readers tried it? ALARIC.



ANSWER TO QUERY.—R. GRIEVESON, *Gateshead*.—Dazzle is a full high-centred flower, colour rather dull, but very constant in character: not so light as Bob, nor so stout as Napier, but being more certain in number of good blooms than these two varieties, is the reason of its taking so many prizes at Chesterfield, as reported in our last number; but when Bob or Napier are well done, they are greatly superior, from the points just named. It has been out three seasons, and we believe may be had of most nurserymen in the midlands, at a moderate price.

THE GREENHOUSE

SHOULD have good attendance at this season of the year, and air should be admitted every day, when the weather is favourable, as it is of great importance to keep the plants of a robust and dwarfish habit. Take care, however, to shut up all lights and windows in due time, that is about three or four o'clock in the afternoon, according to the temperature of the weather.

GERANIUMS AND PELARGONIUMS that were stopped back the latter end of December, or the beginning of February, by the middle of this month, will be broken again, and should be removed into their blooming pots. As also all young stock plants that have filled their pots with roots. If the roots of these plants are matted round the sides of the pots, in shifting, cut off the outside, and top off the balls. After they are repotted, give them a good watering, and keep them close for a few days. Plants that were finally shifted in autumn, will require a thorough watering, to moisten the ball of earth throughout. This is of great importance. You may now give the strongest of the plants some weak liquid manure, once or twice a week. This should be made of one peck of sheep and half-a-peck of cow dung to about twenty-five or thirty gallons of water.

FANCY PELARGONIUMS, as the season advances, will be getting vigorous, consequently will require thinning, by the removal of all the superfluous leaves and any weak shoots that may be in the way. Continue to tie out as wide as possible, that the sun and air may penetrate, to harden the wood. When early flowers are required, a few may be placed in the forcing house, where they will soon become gay objects.

CALCEOLARIAS will be progressing, and may receive an increased supply of water. A moist genial atmosphere is desirable. If growing freely, give them a liberal shift. The soil most suitable is one part rotten turf, one of leaf mould, and one of cow dung, with plenty of silver sand to give drainage.

CINERARIAS should now have as much air as possible on all occasions, to preserve the foliage from damp and mildew. If they are not already shifted into their blooming pots, this must be attended to without delay, or they will form but a moderate display of bloom. All plants putting out their flower stems must be tied out at proper distances, and arranged to form a flat head of bloom. Care must taken to keep down the green-fly. The same compost as described for Calceolarias will suit Cinerarias.

VERBENAS.—Where a large quantity is required to be propagated, place stock plants into warmth and moisture. Care

must be taken to prevent mildew, which is frequently very troublesome at this season. Wherever it makes its appearance, dust the plants with sulphur. Plants not requiring to be propagated at this time should be placed close to the glass, giving air freely. To keep them stiff and bushy, frequently stop the shoots.

ROSES, if grown in pots, and placed in the greenhouse, with a little heat, will now be pushing vigorously, and will need frequently syringing. Guard against the greenfly, by smoking with tobacco. Look closely after the maggots, which are a great pest to these plants.

DAHLIAS, about the middle of this month, may be fairly set to work for propagation, in houses or frames, either in large pots or in the soil.

CAMELLIAS.—Many kinds will be in bloom, or about to be so. The pots should be frequently examined, to see if water be required, as, if the roots be allowed to get dry, the beauty of the flowers will soon vanish. Air must be given freely when the weather is favourable, as the plants should not be kept too warm. They will flower better in a cold greenhouse than in one of a higher temperature.

CALENDAR OF OPERATIONS, FOR FEBRUARY.

FORCING DEPARTMENT.

FORCING Asparagus and Sea-kale may be continued as directed last month. Plant French Beans, if required, for table in April. Take a seed pan, or large flower pot, and put in plenty of drainage; fill up with rich light earth, and make the surface smooth; place the beans on the surface, and cover them not more than half an inch deep; then place the pot in a cucumber frame, or on the flue of an early vinery, and the plants will soon make their appearance. When about two inches high, transplant them into pots, putting from four to six in each, according to size, and place them in the hothouse, where they may be raised with little trouble and more certain success than in a frame.

About the middle of the month, make a hotbed for cauliflowers, to succeed those sown in autumn. Cover the bed about five inches thick with light rich earth, sow the seed, cover it about a quarter of an inch deep, and place on the glass. When the plants begin to appear, let them have air every day, and on mild days, take the lights off, which will prevent the

plants being drawn up weak. Let the autumn-sown cauliflowers and lettuce have all the air possible.

Where the raising of early Cucumbers and Melons was not begun last month, it may now be commenced, following the instructions then given for making the bed and sowing the seed. If the plants raised last month have not suffered from accident, to which they are liable, they will now have arrived at the proper growth for final planting out. If the only convenience for growing be a frame, a quantity of fresh stable dung must be in readiness, to line the bed. Particular care must be taken not to let the heat decline, before a fresh lining of hot dung is applied to the back or front of the frame, or both, if required. Where manure is not plentiful, the heat may be easily retained by covering the lining with dry litter, or boards, to defend it from wet. Previous to planting, lay about half-a-bushel of light rich earth under the centre of each light, and cover the rest of the bed to the thickness of two or three inches. One or more plants of the Cucumber may be planted under each light, but not more than one of the Melon. After planting out, give a moderate watering, and shut down the lights till the steam again rises. Give air every day, when the weather is at all favourable. When the roots appear on the sides of the hills, place on more earth, taking care that it is about the same temperature, that there may be no danger of chilling the roots. When the plants have two rough leaves, they should be stopped, and in about ten days they will form runners, which probably will show fruit at the third or fourth joint. If this is not the case, they should again be stopped, and will then form a supply of new shoots, which are most likely to be fruitful. As they advance in growth, train the runners along in regular order. The lights should be covered with mats every night, by four o'clock, and uncovered not later than nine in the morning. Be particularly careful to reline the bed when the heat declines.

FLOWER GARDEN.

As Auriculas are fairly on the move, see that their progress be not checked by frost, cold winds, or drought, yet an excess of kindness is by no means needful. As the month advances, more water will be required, and preparations for top-dressing may be made. Offsets may now be removed. Those found with rootlets may be treated as plants, and at once planted in small pots, or round the edges of larger ones. Seed may be sown in pots or boxes, containing light rich earth.

Carnations and Picotees need cautious treatment, as this is the most trying season of the year. Weakly or diseased stock should be destroyed, as unworthy of attention and not likely to repay the trouble of nursing.

Pansies will be giving strong signs of growth. The most

vigorous plants in small pots may, at the end of the month, be removed into those in which they are to bloom.

Give all the air you can to Tulips, without risking a frost, which would be fatal. Hoops and waterproof transparent cloth form the best covering.

The garden kinds of Roses must be cut back rather close, not leaving more than two or three bottom eyes of the principal last year's shoots. Also cut out any old wood or branches which cross one another, and are in each other's way.

Pinks, Heartsease, Hyacinths, Plants in pots, Tulips, and Autumn-planted Ranunculuses should be protected.

Perennials of all kinds, intended for removal to places where they are to bloom, should now be planted out.

Tender Annuals, and hardy and half hardy, wanted to be forward, should be sown in heat; Ten-week Stocks and Mignonette, Balsams, and Cockspurs, and all others wanted early, or that require a long summer.

Ranunculuses for the June shows must be planted this month. The beds should be composed of rotted turves and a little cow dung rotted into mould, or half good loam and half decomposed cow dung, well mixed. The bed must be well drained, or all attempts to grow them successfully will be vain.

Anemones, for late bloom, should be planted at the same time as the Ranunculus, and in the same manner.

KITCHEN GARDEN.

We repeat our last month's advice as to all work of a preparatory character. Let all trenching, digging, manuring, &c. having reference to the operations of the succeeding summer, be completed before March arrives.

If the weather be favourable, about the middle or last week of the month, sow a full crop of Radishes, in warm borders, covering with long litter, and as soon as they begin to appear, take off the cover in the daytime, except in case of frost or cutting winds. Plant a full crop of Beans, Garlic, and Eschallots, without delay. Sow Turnips (Early Dutch or Snowball), on a warm border and in rich soil; if they do not run, they will come in useful. London Flag Leek, Parsley, Lettuce (Drum-head and Bath Cos), and Early Carrots may be sown the last week of the month. The following Peas may be sown plentifully, and will succeed each other:—Daniel O'Rourke, Ringwood Marrow, Fairbeard's Champion of England, Ne plus ultra, Knight's Tall Green Marrow, Knight's Dwarf Green Marrow. Plan out in vacant places the strongest Cabbage from the seed bed, twice as thick as required, that half may be pulled for greens, such as are bunched. Plant out a few fine onions, to stand for seed; plant the bulbs two-thirds in the ground, and a foot from each other; also small autumn bulbs, to swell, six inches apart.

ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.



ON THE ADVANTAGES OF AN AMATEUR SOCIETY OF FLORISTS.

It cannot be denied that the interests of amateurs and those of many dealers are somewhat opposed to each other, and that the former alone suffer. It will also be conceded that it is not for want of judgment that they get saddled with bad things at a good price, but for lack of information, and this information cannot be attained in trade catalogues. If amateurs, to whom floriculture was indebted, until late years, for nearly every really good novelty, were able to see everything before they purchased, they would not be deceived; but thousands have no opportunity of travelling from show to show, and therefore must either take the dealer's word or abstain from buying novelties, and lose a season. The only way to obviate the difficulty in this state of things is for the amateurs to form themselves into societies, and these societies to communicate to each other, to meet once a week or fortnight in their respective localities, and if any one meets with a novelty that it is thought would be useful, to forward specimens to the central society, wherever it may be, to get a confirmation of the good opinion they had formed at home, or reasons for rejecting it. The working of this society would require but a small subscription. The members of the central society may be judges of whatever comes before them, but at this central society there might be a board of judges elected, by and from the members, and it would be well that all flowers should come before the members of the society first, and unless a majority approved them they should not be referred to the board at all. It might do mischief to send forth a good character with a bad flower, and there-

fore the hasty decision of a meeting would be hardly security enough, because novelty is very attractive, but the deliberate fiat of a board, whose business it would be to judge "by all the properties of flowers," might be opposed to the first opinions formed among themselves. Let us suppose Nottingham to be the seat of a central board of say a dozen people, elected for the year by fifty or sixty amateurs who formed the society. Let Bristol, Bath, Birmingham, and a hundred other places, have their societies. Let all the members be amateurs, or gardeners wholly employed in some amateur's establishment. Let the meetings be fortnightly, or at particular seasons weekly, and let it be perfectly understood that flowers may be sent or taken to any one of these societies to be exhibited to those present, and if those present considered them worthy, a specimen should be sent to Nottingham to be judged there. Well, the meeting find a score of flowers before it. Here, as at other societies, the properties are discussed, and everyone having "had his say," those productions which a majority of the meeting think worthy shall be forthwith handed over to the judges, whose decision and their reasons for it shall be given at the meeting, and be communicated to the owners. It is certain that no bad thing would be distinguished with a good character, and, further, there would be no jobbing by interested persons. Honest opinions would be given, because every member would be interested in their justness. There should be *no dealers admitted as members*, but all classes of raisers should be at liberty to bring or send novelties free of expense, and the approval of a variety by the board, which should have nothing before them that the members did not think worthy, would secure a large sale. Presuming such societies were organized all over the country, the advantages to floriculture would be enormous. Thousands, who are very naturally afraid to buy novelties now, would then gladly purchase them, because they would know what they were buying. It may be

asked why the dealers should be excluded from membership? The answer is, because their interests are different from those of the members; not but the great majority of the trade are honourable men, and would scorn the idea of profiting by deception of any kind. But large sums wasted upon worthless flowers forcibly remind the amateur that the time has arrived when he *must look to himself*, and, moreover, the necessity is greater now that some of the most useless subjects are distinguished by hosts of certificates of their good qualities. But, independently of all this, the meetings of amateur florists will be beneficial to all who assemble. We may be told there is the "National Society." We know it, and so do hundreds who have acted on its recommendations to their cost. If the "National" had been composed exclusively of amateurs, it would make no bad Central Board. But wherever dealers have the ascendancy or the management everything has failed. The Metropolitan Society of Florists and Amateurs, which did more for the science than any previous institution, was, after years of good service, ruined when the dealers became the strongest. The amateurs successfully resisted the attempt to abuse their certificates for a while, but a section started the "London Floricultural Society," whose certificates were manufactured by wholesale, but, on being exposed, they became no more influential than waste paper, and it failed. Another certificate manufactory was set up at the London Tavern, and, after a while, as the dealers prevailed, shared the same fate. The National has only been preserved by the violent hostility which it encountered, and the charges of gross tampering with certificates which were brought against it, for it induced the more respectable members, who had been trapped into it, to look a little into the affairs, and finding *that the charges were true*, they actually, in two years, reduced the number of certificates given in a season from one hundred and

seventy-eight to fifty-three, although, if we can believe their report, more things were submitted to them last year than ever ; but as many of the most respectable members live at great distances, their influence does not prevent advantage being taken, now and then, by those who are always on the *qui vive*, and it is odd to us if they have not certified this year a dahlia which cannot be put into a decent stand without damaging it. The desirableness, then, of a complete amateur union, with branches everywhere, cannot be disputed. There is the greater necessity for this, when it is considered that there is a portion of the press in the hands of those who have most profited by the certificates of that society. However, it can do no harm now. The subscriptions are lowered to half-a-crown without materially increasing the number of members ; but it is as superior to what it was two years ago as the House of Commons is to a parish vestry, and we hope will be better still. Nevertheless it is a dealer's society, and we require an amateur society to protect the buyers. Every florist will admit the advantage of social meetings for discussion, and perhaps, as a source of pleasure, the conversation on floral matters is next to growing them. The benefit, not to say the delight, of taking flowers of our own and seeing those of other people, where they may be talked of, cannot be disputed. The remarks elicited by the production of good specimens are always instructive, so that if there were no other object, the establishment of such unions would do good. There is no lack of societies of which the subscriptions are high, and from these men of humble means are virtually excluded. But societies, to be useful to all classes, should not have a subscription of more than three-pence per quarter, or one shilling per annum. Working men, and these form a vast majority of the practical florists, can afford to spend a penny per month, but would feel some reluctance at joining any much more expensive undertaking. In fact, as the

humble class of florists, who have done more for the science than those above them, have been purposely or otherwise shut out from all organized societies, by the expense on the one hand, and their natural diffidence on the other, it is quite time some of the able and sympathizing members of the floral community should offer the working class benefits within their command, and join in a demonstration which compasses their wants, and harmonizes with their means. And now for a word or two on the definition of the word "dealers." Strictly speaking, we know everybody who buys and sells is to all intents and purposes a dealer; but we only consider, in our present use of it, those whose business is dealing in flowers, who have no other calling, or if they have, publish catalogues, and notoriously lay themselves out as dealers. As to the humble gardener, supplying his neighbours, or the merely selling of his surplus, or making the most of his little garden, it would not constitute a dealer whose interest is opposed to amateurs. In fact, as the active bees in the world of floriculture, we should like to see them able to help each other, and so do something towards defeating the monopolist. Again, the very spirit of floriculture is developed in the raising of new varieties. It may be said that they, like another establishment, would be judging their own flowers. This, however, is impossible. The society at Bath, or Bristol, may have something placed before them that is superior to ordinary varieties of the family, no matter what that family may be, they can only determine that it is good enough to go before the central society, and the members of that can only resolve that it is fit to go before the judges, while these judges, being selected for their knowledge of the properties of flowers, and having no interest in the matter, will decide fairly and honourably. We remember seeing, at the Hackney Society, a little illustration of the certificate system. Mr. Paul, on coming round, after the judges

had done their work, found three or four of his Hollyhocks had not been noticed. One of the judges was brought round, and after a few pros and cons, a certificate was appended to one (I think two). However, judges and exhibiter on that occasion belonged to the National, and it was in its early days, so some allowance must be made for habit. Now these tricks cannot be played with a board selected by and from the members, and uncontrolled. We see plainly that much would be gained by the establishment of such societies, and we urge the influential men in every place to adopt measures for the immediate enrolment of all those willing to join in a society whose subscription shall not exceed a shilling per annum, who shall meet once a fortnight (or week if they please), to show any flowers they have, new or old, that may be worth seeing, or raise a discussion. There need be only a president, secretary, treasurer, and a committee formed of half-a-dozen beside the officers. These will keep floriculture alive, in spite of the efforts now making to crush the humble followers of the fancy and play upon the ignorance or the indifference of the more wealthy. Let the *Midland Florist* be the organ of the society, and report proceedings. There is no reason why ten thousand of the working classes, who are now shut out from everything of the kind, may not be enrolled in a society far more formidable, from its numbers and its practical knowledge, than any of the cliques that want pound subscriptions in the great privileged institutions which make displays in the Park and at Chiswick. This is a subject which we should like to see discussed with spirit, and canvassed with temper and moderation. More especially should we like to see if any argument can be urged against it, because it is only by criticising a plan that we can discover its weak points; it is only by allowing people to find faults that we can be led to mend them.

COSMOPOLITE.

THE ROSE GARDEN.

PREMISING that a few remarks on the cultivation of the Rose may not be out of order, and as I would wish to bring other growers' opinions before your readers, I will give you my ideas of a Rose garden, and I hope to see some of your readers follow the example.

The Rose garden may be of any size or form, according to the taste of the cultivator, but a deal may be done on a small plot of garden, of which we have many round Nottingham. As a matter of course, much depends upon the soil and situation, I find them to do the best when the ground has a gentle slope to the south-east, and is of a rich turfy loam. Twenty-four yards by thirty is the size of my garden, in which there is a nine-foot border all round. On this border I plant my standards, which are about three feet in height, and they consist of the best summer roses in cultivation. The other part of the ground I divide into three chains of circles, eight feet across, with a circular connecting border between each, and on each side there is a path two feet wide. When thus laid out, and it has been well worked with rotten manure to a good depth, I commence planting the first row of beds with hybrid perpetuals, either on dwarf stocks, or on their own roots; the latter I prefer for several reasons, for you may then peg them down and layer them, and they are not so liable to be killed by frost. In each bed I plant nine trees round the edge and one in the centre, being careful to pick them as similar in growth as possible. In the second row of beds I plant Bourbon and tea-scented Roses. These may either be planted separately or mixed, and in the centre I plant some of the best sorts of noisettes. In the third row of beds I plant hybrid perpetuals, as before. On the outside border I plant dwarf hybrid perpetuals and Bourbons. When all this is done, I give a good top-dressing of well-decomposed

manure, and do not prune them till March, which I like much better than autumn pruning. I fork the ground well over about the beginning of May. As soon as the bloom buds show sufficiently, I pinch off, where there are too many, for by that means I have much finer flowers. For hybrid perpetuals I would advise a good mulching of well-rotted manure, about the middle of June, because it will incite them to bloom much longer and make extra growth.

In the spaces intervening between the roses on the border and beds, there will be plenty of room for choice Phloxes, of which there is now so great a variety, and Pompon Chrysanthemums and Scarlet Geraniums, which would materially add to the embellishment of the Rose garden.

J. G.

THE HOLLYHOCK, ITS CULTURE AND EXHIBITION.

PEOPLE are fairly astonished at the extraordinary blooms that are shown at exhibitions, and wonder how it is that they will not come so in amateurs' gardens. It is true they come taller, and last longer in flower, and that they look gay in the gardens; the colours are all right, but still they are not so fine as those which they were ordered from. Nevertheless they are the same varieties, and can be grown the same size, and every way as good, by the amateur. As the Hollyhock growers are very sparing of information (although one party ventured to give a rigmarole on the subject, for a shilling) a few hints may be acceptable. The *Chronicle* lesson, extracted by Mr. Johnson for one of his many compilations, is worth quoting for its singularity, if not for its usefulness. It is thus ushered forth by the sagacious borrower:—

“Dr. Lindley justly observes, ‘The Hollyhock is little more than a biennial, and frequently dies suddenly if sown too early in the first season, or if allowed

to remain too long in the seed bed before transplanting; therefore the best way to keep them in health is not to sow them before June, and, when large enough, to transplant them singly where they are to remain, and flower in the following season. Afterwards cut them down as soon as they have done flowering, and remove them to a fresh situation, where the ground has been well manured, before winter. By continuing this treatment you may keep the same variety for years.' " (Prodigious!)

So much for the treatment of the Hollyhock by one great authority, and the sagacity of the gentleman who selected it; but we do not believe Dr. Lindley had any more to do with the authorship of such miserable twaddle than we had.

The Hollyhock is a perennial, and we have known a plant to grow and spread on the same spot for years; but since its "elevation to the rank of a florists' flower," to use Mr. Loudon's words, it has been increased with as much ease as the Dahlia. We will premise that the reader orders from a nursery a dozen plants; he will receive them fit to plant out at any time if in pots, and the best time is April or May, though it would do now. Drive your stake into the ground as you would for a Dahlia, put in the plant close to the stake, and make the ground up well. Here they will make very little progress at first, but they will be establishing their roots in the fresh soil. The best soil for them is two parts of loam, from rotted turf, and one part decayed dung, from a rotten hotbed. This, well mixed, would be all that can be desired, and if the soil of the garden be materially different, put plenty of the compost into a good hole, dug out for the purpose at each stake. The plants may be treated much the same as Dahlias, as to watering in very dry weather, till fully established. The stakes already placed, the plants will not be disturbed, but as they grow up let them be very loosely tied; and now comes the management, which is to make them as good as any nurseryman's. Six feet is the full

height they ought to be allowed to grow. Take off the top as soon as it has reached that altitude, and continue to top them at that height, for they will grow taller, even when beheaded. At all the joints of the Hollyhock there will be a full-sized bud, a half-sized bud, and a small one. Remember that you take off the two smaller ones, and even then the large ones will be too close to each other; therefore now remove some of the larger ones, so that no two remain within four or five inches of each other on the same side, and so regulate those you leave that they may show themselves all round, and when open form a solid pillar of flowers. When the buds are opening, administer liquid manure instead of water, once a week, and this should be made with a good spadeful of decomposed dung fairly rotted into mould. Some growers mulch them; that is, lay stable dung round their roots, while the buds are swelling. When this is done, the watering through it has the same effect as liquid manure. By keeping them all down to six feet in height, they are uniform, and make a very striking appearance. The distance for planting is almost a matter of taste; three feet apart in the rows, and four feet between the rows, are good distances; but many prefer them in the borders. When the Hollyhock is intended for exhibition, the bloom *must be* shaded, and *may be* protected from rain. It matters very little how this is accomplished, and scarcely two people adopt the same plan. The colours would fade under a burning sun, and would be damaged by a succession of heavy rains. We have seen umbrellas over them, and upright shades that go half-way round them. In showing, the best part of the spike must be taken, whether it be the top, bottom, or middle; that is to say, the portion on which the blooms are most perfect. There must not be less than five blooms perfect on a show spike, and there ought to be a limit as to height above the stand, because one man will show two feet of flower, another only eighteen inches. Some do not show all their

spikes the same length. This regulation, however, comes under the manager's or the committee's control, and should be inserted in the schedule. As the blooms of the Hollyhock decline, and the petals decay, you can easily remove them, for they will come away altogether without any violence; in fact, they must not be removed till they will come away with a very gentle tug. If these petals are left on, they look untidy, and there is danger of harboring vermin and destroying the seed. The Hollyhock having done its work, you may cut down the stem, and stir the earth round the root; pull off the dead leaves, and let it grow for a month, or even two; when you may take off, close to the base, and with bits of the root if you can, every separate shoot, for it is a plant without any trouble. If it comes off without a bit of root, pot it, and put it in a cold frame; it will strike freely, and without any other trouble than watering when too dry. But, if a sort be very choice, and you are anxious to propagate it to a greater extent, you may make a plant of every eye, as you would of a grape vine (which is going to extreme), or you may take up the root, pull or cut off all the shoots that are ready, pot the old root and work it as you would a Dahlia, taking off the shoots as fast as they come all the winter and spring, and at last dividing the old root. As these shoots from time to time strike root, remove them to a cold frame. If you strike them one in a pot, they will want nothing but the move from one berth to another; but if struck more than one in a pot, repot them singly in three-inch (or large sixties) pots, and give them a few days under glass, to settle them a bit before they go into their winter quarters. Hollyhocks, like any other of the fancy perennials, such as Carnations, Picotees, Pinks, and some others, are better for renewing every season, and if left on the ground to bloom the next year without parting, throw up flowers less in size, less double, and weaker altogether, but they send up half-a-dozen spikes, perhaps, instead of one. We,

who like the easiest way of doing things, and do everything in the open ground that will stand it, simply take up the roots, after the plants have been allowed to grow a bit when cut down, and with a sharp knife detach the side shoots, with a bit of root, if we can, and divide the main root into as many pieces as there are hearts, for more than one is useless to a plant. All the pieces with roots we plant out as we would so many Cabbages, and all those without roots we put under a hand-glass, and there they have remained, occasionally watered, and covered against frost, till they have struck, when they have been planted where they were to bloom; and the number of persons who have no greenhouse, nor propagating-house, nor frames, is so great, compared with those who have, that it may be encouraging for them to know that they can produce as fine flowers from plants that have braved all the hardships of the winter, as they can from those that come fresh from the nursery. Other cultivators may give different directions from these, and make a mystery of producing the flowers they show, but we know that our directions are good, because we have produced as fine specimens as ever were shown, by the simple means we have here described.

G. G.

ON THE PROPAGATION OF THE DAHLIA.

THE method of propagation I should recommend is by cuttings, as I consider these to make the best blooming plants. A hotbed should be prepared the first week in March, carefully avoiding a strong heat. A moderate heat, averaging about sixty degrees, will be found sufficient. As soon as the bed is made, place on the frame, and lay about six inches of light soil over the surface. In a few days, the roots may be placed in the soil, taking care not to cover the

crowns. A little air should be given in the morning, to allow the steam to pass off, but cover up close at night. When they have made shoots about three inches long, these should be taken off as near the crown as possible without injury, and be inserted in small pots, filled with light sandy soil. Plunge the pots into a hotbed (about seventy degrees), watering, shading, and giving air, to keep the cuttings from damping. When they are sufficiently rooted, pot them singly into small pots, and place in a gentle heat, till they have made fresh roots. They may then be removed into a cold frame, and be hardened off as the weather will permit.

Where only a few plants of each sort are required, they may be increased by dividing the roots, but not so advantageously as by cuttings. In this case, the bed should not be made till the last week in March, or the beginning of April, in the same way as before described. Place the roots on the top of the soil. They will soon begin to show signs of growth, and when the shoots are about four inches long, the roots may be carefully taken up, divided, and potted singly into small pots of convenient size. Place them in a little bottom heat again, till they have formed fresh roots, when they may be put into a cold frame, taking care to cover at night, when required.

The success of flowering greatly depends on the planting them into the open ground, which should not be done till the latter end of May, when a situation shaded from the winds should be chosen for them, if possible. Put down the stakes, about six feet apart each way, before you commence planting, then place the plants close to the stakes, and give them a good watering. As soon as the soil is settled round the plants, make them secure by tying them to the stakes, and as they advance in growth, they must be protected against strong winds, by staking. When the flower buds begin to show, the vigour of the blooms will be greatly increased by covering the ground with rotten manure some dis-

tance round the stems, and frequently watering, giving three or four gallons at a time.

In the April number, I will give a list of the best sorts grown in the midland counties last year.

R. E. .

THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE MEMBERS OF EVERY CLASS.

It would be much too extensive a task to attempt a description of half the advantages derived from a communication among the cultivators of the soil, but more especially as it applies to the growers of flowers, every one of whom is interested in the acquisition of a novelty, and generally, if not universally, procure it as soon as they can. The most simple and appropriate means is the press. Every one who loves a garden is interested in the events which are connected with gardening, or which belong to the science of horticulture, and he should be able periodically to take up some cheap book or paper in which all such events are recorded. The *Midland Florist* has offered this advantage to those who desire to seize upon the opportunity; but gardeners, professional and amateur, have not done all their duty, when they have secured the work. Its value to all engaged is increased by every additional reader it acquires, and by every correspondent who lends a hand in the concentration of the "knowledge" that is "useful," "knowledge" which "is power." To render a work doubly valuable, every man should communicate his discoveries, his improvements and his new ideas, everything, in fact, that can affect the gardening world. The nearest approximation to universal communication exists in a weekly newspaper, which entertains the subject of gardening, and devotes a column to it. This paper circulates every week upwards of one hundred and sixty thousand copies,

and is read by every class, from the prince to the most humble labourer in a garden, but the quantity of garden information, though it comprises all the important occurrences, is totally inadequate to the wants of the gardener. Still it is a weekly farming newspaper. But a cheap *monthly* is *within the reach of everybody*, and in it there is space for all the gardening news that is necessary or interesting; for four shillings a-year it will reach any part of the United Kingdom; a good seedling raised at the Land's End can be made known at John o'Groat's, as well as anywhere else. If a gardener desired to enlighten his fellow men upon any subject, whether a successful or unsuccessful experiment, the invention of a new implement, a discovery in the culture of any subject, he has only to drop a few lines to the *Midland*; and no man need be ashamed to do his best, however roughly, if he but convey his meaning, as the Editor will set all to rights; for it is the *idea* that is valued, not the way in which it is conveyed. We shall resume this subject, but in the mean time let every reader impress on the minds of his friends and acquaintance, the necessity for a work that may be taken by all classes, and tell them this is the work destined to fulfil the condition.

ON THE TREATMENT OF ANNUALS.

I HAVE often remarked great want of skill, or perhaps want of care, in the management of hardy annuals in the open border. The seed, whether in great or small quantities, is generally sown with proper care, but afterwards, it not unfrequently happens that the plants are entirely left to themselves, and in ninety-nine cases of every hundred they become so thick as to preclude the possibility of displaying any individual as a specimen of the species, and therefore no correct judgment can be

formed, either of its natural habit or the beauty of its flowers. To those who err in this respect, the following remarks may be useful. I suppose the seed to be sown in the course of the month of March, or the early part of April, in patches, rows, or whatever way the fancy of the sower may dictate. The seed is covered a proper depth, according to its size. When the plants appear above ground, they should, in the first place be kept clear from weeds; attention must next be paid to the thinning of patches. All kinds under twelve inches in height, with small leaves and tender trailing stems, may be left eight or twelve plants in each patch; but such as attain the height of two feet and upwards, must be thinned out to five, three, or even one plant, when very large. Without this be attended to, and each propped with a neat stake, or otherwise supported, so as to display the plant and flowers to advantage, there is comparatively little either of beauty or interest in their appearance. I would also remark, in the cultivation of annuals, it is an essential point that the earth be rich, for the very circumstance of the plants being annual requires rapid development of the leaves and flowers, and this cannot be effected without the stimulating properties of a highly manured soil.

The following list contains some of the very best annuals in cultivation.

Oxyura Chrysanthemoides.—Native of New California. Height eighteen inches, habit erect, branching; flowers yellow, edged with white. Suitable for large beds, or mixed borders. Sow in March, in the open ground.

Nemophila Maculata.—Native of California. Height nine inches, trailing, flowers white, with a large blotch of purple on each petal. A neat plant for pots, and early growth in the flower garden. Sow for spring blooming, in the open ground, in September.

Venus's Looking Glass.—Native of the south of Europe. Height one foot, habit spreading, flower beautiful purple, with white centre. Very attractive in a bed. Sow in March.

Lupinus Nanus.—Native of California. Height one foot, habit erect, flowers blue and white. A remarkably neat and pretty plant for beds or patches. Sow in March, in open ground.

- Erysimum Profiskianum*.—Native of Palestine. Height two feet, erect, slightly branching, flowers rich deep orange. A very useful plant for both beds and mixed borders. Sow in September and again in March, in open borders.
- Clarkia Pulchella*.—Native of California. Height eighteen inches, erect, branching, flowers rose purple. Truly a pretty plant either for beds or mixed borders. Sow in September, for spring blooming, and again in March, for succession.
- Eschscholtzia Crocea*.—Native of California. Height one foot, procumbent, flowers deep orange. This, when grown in rich soil and thinned out well, makes one of the best beds of the colour. Sow in September or March.
- Schizanthus Pinnatus*.—Native of Chili. Height two feet, erect, branching, flowers lilac, yellow, and purple. A splendid pot plant early in the season, and also very suitable for beds and mixed borders. Sow in March, in the open ground, in rich soil.
- Virginian Stock*.—South of Europe. Habit erect, branching. A neat pretty plant for small beds, edgings of large beds, or mixed borders. Sow in March, in good garden soil.
- Convolvulus Minor*.—Height one foot, spreading, flowers blue, with white centre. A splendid plant for beds and mixed borders. Sow in March and again in June, for succession.
- Gilia Tricolor*.—Native of California. Height one foot, erect, branching, flowers lilac, yellow, and dark purple. A neat plant for pots and early groups, but not suitable for transplanting. Sow in March, in common garden soil, not too rich.
- Tropæolum Canariense*.—Native of Peru. Height twelve feet, climbing, flower yellow, fringed. The favourite Canary Creeper, so much and deservedly admired. Sow about the last week in March, in rich garden soil.
- Indian or Chinese Pink*.—Height one foot, tufted, flowers diverse coloured, single or double. Suitable for beds or mixed borders, forming a very brilliant and early bed. Sow the end of August, in reserve garden, and transplant into the flower garden early in March. Sow for succession in March, in rich soil.
- Convolvulus Coccinea*.—Native of the West Indies. Height six feet, twining, flower scarlet. A very neat and showy climber. Sow about the end of March, in the open ground, in rich light deep soil.
- Collinsia Bicolor*.—Native of California. Height twelve to eighteen inches, erect, flowers white and pale purple. This is a first-rate plant for beds and mixed borders, and also for pots, early in the season. Sow in September, to stand through the winter, for spring blooming, and for succession, in March, in rich garden soil.
- Sphenogyne Speciosa*.—Native of the Cape of Good Hope. Height one foot, erect, slightly branching, flowers buff orange, with dark brown ring round the disk. Remarkably

neat and beautiful. Suitable for beds or mixed borders. Sow in the open ground, in March, in rich soil.

Nemophila Insignis.—Native of California. Height six inches, procumbent, flower deep blue, with white centre. A splendid flower for early beds, and also for pots in the greenhouse. Sow in the open ground, in September, to stand through the winter, for spring blooming, and for succession in March and June, in rich light garden soil.

R. E.



THE COTTAGER'S PAGE.

WHEN a seedsman's list is put into the hands of a cottager, so numerous are the names offered to his choice that it throws him into a state of bewilderment. In the present paper, therefore, I shall make a selection of only such vegetables as I think suitable for a cottage garden.

In early Peas there are none superior to Warner's Emperor. There may be one or two a few days earlier, but the Emperor is a good bearer, and does not grow more than from two and a half to three feet high. To succeed the Emperor is the Ringwood Marrow, about five feet high, excellent and well known; and Bishop's Dwarf, a good sort, about eighteen inches high. Then there is the Auvergne, about five feet in height, a first-rate Pea. For a late crop, sow Knight's Dwarf Green Marrow, growing about three feet high. In this selection, I have altogether avoided very tall-growing kinds, for they are quite unsuitable for small gardens. Should any reader fancy a tall pea, however, he cannot have a better than Fairbeard's Champion of England.

Of Beans, the best are Longpod, for earliness, and Green Windsor for flavour.

Of Onions, I prefer the White Spanish for size and colour, and Brown Spanish and Deptford for keeping.

Of Carrots, the Early Horn is an excellent sort

for drawing during the summer months, while the Altringham and Long Orange are the best for winter use.

Of Lettuce, there is none better than the Brown Bath Cos, when attended to in tying. Sutton's White Cos is a good summer Lettuce; and in the cabbage kinds, the Drumhead, for summer use, and the Hammersmith Hardy Green, sown in autumn, to stand the winter, for early spring.

Of Parsnips, the Hollow Crown is the best.

Of Cauliflowers, there are none better than the Walcheren.

Of Turnips, the Snowball is a nice early sort, as is also the American Strap-leaf, having foliage of a peculiar shape.

Amongst Broccoli, I prefer Knight's Protecting and the Willcove, for early cutting, to be followed by Chapple's Cream and Elliott's Mammoth, and Miller's Dwarf, for late cutting. The Cape Broccoli is also useful, a few heads for autumn cutting.

Amongst Cabbages, the Enfield Market and Matchless are my favourites. No cottage garden ought to be without Cabbage plants, as they are always useful.

In Celery, sow Cole's Solid Red, and Seymour's White. The red is far the best to stand the winter.

Of Radishes, Wood's Frame, for frames, and the Short-top for open ground.

In cultivation of all garden crops, care should be taken that they are not planted too thickly, as, unless there is a good circulation of air between the plants, they become drawn and weakly, the juices are decreased, and unable to give either size or flavour to the more useful parts. It is also very advantageous to frequently stir the soil, as it not only admits the rain, but also the air to the roots.

Having made a selection of what I think the best for the cottager's table, in the vegetable department, I must not forget the cottager's flower garden; and who, I ask, does not love to see a well-kept cottage

garden, with its early Snowdrops, its large red Daisies, its sweet-scented Wallflowers, Carnations, and Pinks, its noble Hollyhocks, each and every flower rendered doubly beautiful from the fact that they are tended by the labouring man and his family? I will here give a list of a few annuals suitable for such a garden, all good, but not expensive.

Calliopsis Drummondii.—Height one foot, colour yellow and bronze.

Campanula Loreyii.—Height six inches, colour blue.

Clarkia Elegans.—Height eighteen inches, colour lilac.

Clarkia Pulchella.—Height one foot, colour rose.

Clarkia Alba.—Height one foot, white.

Collinsia Bicolor.—Height one foot, lilac and white.

Collinsia Grandiflora.—One foot, purple.

Larkspur, Dwarf.—One foot, various.

Indian Pink.—Six inches, various.

Erysimum Perofskianum.—Eighteen inches, orange.

Eschscholtzia Crocea.—One foot, orange.

Eutoca Viscida.—One foot, blue.

Gilia Tricolor.—Six inches, three-coloured.

Limnanthes Douglasii.—Six inches, white and yellow.

Lupinus Nanus.—One foot, blue.

Malope Grandiflora.—Two feet, crimson.

Nemophila Insignis.—Six inches, blue and white.

Schizopetalon Walkerii.—Six inches, white.

The above, with the addition of a few Stocks, Asters, Mignonette, &c. will be as much as most cottagers require. The same remarks apply to flowers as to vegetables,—in all cases six plants are sufficient to leave in a patch, while in most two or three will be plenty, but this must be determined by the size of the plant.

In conclusion, I beg to throw out a hint that may be beneficial to the cottager. Several years ago, I was obliged to destroy some large beds of pansies, to make way for bedding plants. They were just then in full bloom. I took them up carefully, placed them in barrows, and the first time I had an opportunity, asked my employer to allow me to send them round to the various cottagers of the village. "No," was the reply, "my pansies cost me a deal of money,

I cannot give them away in that manner," consequently they were consigned to the dungheap. Such, I hope, is not the feeling of the well-to-do readers of the *Midland Florist*.

W. S.

THE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

THE meeting on the 5th of February, to decide "whether the gardens shall be given up, and the stock sold," as recommended by the report of the council, did not appear to relish the proposed "vote in the dark." It was quite right for the council, who had got the society into a mess, to lay down some scheme for getting out of it; but the majority of the fellows present refused to adopt so violent a remedy as the sacrifice of so large a property, without knowing more about it. It was a question whether the authorities had acted fairly by the members, in allowing things to go to such extremes, before they laid open the state of affairs; accordingly a "committee of investigation" was proposed *as an amendment*, and eventually it was carried. We may therefore expect a searching inquiry into the management, the monetary affairs of the society, and the circumstances under which it became embarrassed. How far any blame can be traced to the carelessness or extravagance of the executive—whether the council have properly controlled the officers, or left them to themselves—whether proper reports have been made to the council, as to the income and expenditure, or things have gone on according to "routine" till they would go on no longer, are matters for consideration. It does seem a deplorable fact, that from being one of the most popular institutions in the scientific world, the Horticultural Society should have got into such disrepute the last few years. If the committee should be able to trace its first downward movement

to the rejection of florists' flowers, to the employment of "unjust judges," the disrespect shown to exhibitors, the injudicious schedules of prizes, or the withering influence of favouritism, it may not be too late to retrace their steps,—to "change their ministers," and elect practical men for councillors. Nobody can say a word against the respectability of the "cabinet," but respectability, rank and title do not always imply "fitness for office." Nay, it too often proves the reverse. Great men are not the best attendants; they too often treat elections to such boards as complaints, and are the last to disturb "routine," be that routine ever so damaging. We should be sorry to see the gardens given up, or even to lose the shows; but they must not be conducted as they have been,—they need not be so costly, the prizes need not be calculated *for particular people*, they may be such as every successful cultivator might contend for, not two or three good prizes for subjects which scores might respectably compete for, if there were more encouragement, but who, knowing that two or three men could secure the only ones, will not show, to be certain of losing. However, we must wait for the report of the committee of investigation, who will see the money that has been squandered in the propagation of the most common plants, the amount that has been wasted in marvelously trumpery packets of seed. They will see how much it has cost to injure the trade by giving away sixpenny plants and penny packets. They will probably discover that the item for collecting real novelties is ridiculously small, and that for labour in the gardens enormously large. Let the committee inquire what would be the least cost of keeping up the original dressed grounds, where all is hardy—how much it would take to furnish the bedding plants—how much of the glass may be dispensed with. Let premiums be given for the best schedules, to comprise florists' flowers as well as those that require a stove. It would be a "burning shame" to give up the dressed

grounds, but much might be let, and enough ground for ordinary experiments retained. Even the dressed ground might be brought back to its original limits. But all this is writing in the dark, and we might take a lesson from the fellows assembled on the 5th of February, and leave our remedies till we have ascertained the nature and extent of the disease.

F.H.S.

NEW CHRYSANTHEMUMS.—Mr. Salter, of the Versailles Nurseries, a florist who has devoted much of his attention to bring into notoriety this especial favourite for winter decoration, in which, during the last few years, such vast improvement has been made, has this season raised one which he calls *Alfred Salter*, delicate pink, very high in the crown, petals broad and cupped, and it is stated to be the very best of its class. Amongst the pompons, or Chinese, we would draw attention to *Scarlet Gem*, a crimson scarlet, very profuse bloomer, and of dwarf habit. *Mrs. Gush*, rosy lilac, we believe to be a great acquisition. *Rozinante*, light peach, extra form, and of good habit. *Mr. Dale*, quite a new colour, pale fawn, with purple back. *Mrs. Westwood*, a very free-blooming variety, of a silvery lilac.

NEW BOSTON VEGETABLE MARROW.—In the spring of 1854, I procured from Messrs. Rendle, the introducers from America, some seed of the New Boston Vegetable Marrow, which I sowed in heat, and afterwards removed into a cucumber frame that was exhausted. During the summer, it grew at least twenty feet, producing a great quantity of fruit, of a fine orange colour. I now (Jan. 25) have some, the flavour of which is as fine as when gathered. It is recommended, when cooked, to be cut into quarters, but I prefer it without cutting, as the whole of the juice is then preserved. It is mashed up in the manner of potatoes, and served with melted butter.

I consider it a great acquisition, and believe, ere many years are past, it will be extensively cultivated.—J. G.

NEW PEAS.—The following are offered to the public this season for the first time:—*Sebastopol* (Cottrell), the earliest in cultivation. *Early Wonderful* (Cottrell), early as the *Frame*, and wonderful cropper. *Favourite* (Thedam), very early. *Glory* and *Perfection* (Harrison) are said to be extraordinary Peas, about three feet high, equal in flavour to *Knight's Marrow*, as early as the *Frame*, and filled with pods, in clusters, from the bottom to the top of the haulm. *New Prolific* (Denyer's) *Green Marrow*, said to be the greatest cropping Pea in cultivation.

FORSYTHIA VIRIDISSIMA.—The culture of this plant, hitherto so little known, being very easy and within the means of every possessor of a garden, I will, with permission, give your readers a few brief hints. The flowers, which are produced in great profusion, are of a deep yellow, very delicate in texture, and will not bear exposure to a rough wind, or draught in a greenhouse, as they are readily bruised. To ensure the plants blooming in the open ground, it is necessary that they should be planted in rather poor soil, so as to make well-ripened wood of a medium growth, rather than long succulent shoots, which seldom, if ever, bring forth flowers. Trained against a south wall, it is very desirable, and has a good effect. As a plant for early forcing, it is very applicable; and for that purpose, strong healthy plants, with well-ripened wood, should be procured, and placed in pots suitable to their size, using some rich decomposed turf, and taking care to stop the shoots, in order to ensure nice compact specimens. As the plants advance in growth, give a shift into pots a size larger; but this must be done by the beginning of August, for if deferred to a later period, the blooming of the plants will be retarded, and

probably not a single flower will be the result. The Forsythia is readily propagated from cuttings, struck under a hand-glass, in autumn.—W. C. N.

REVIEWS.

GLENNY'S GARDEN ALMANAC AND FLORISTS' DIRECTORY, FOR 1856.

THIS popular almanac has fallen under our notice this month, and we have been well pleased with its contents. It is something to say in its favour, that it has existed eighteen years, and is the oldest of the various garden almanacs now in being. Others have had only an ephemeral existence, but this has survived where many of its compeers have fallen. The reason is, it has sterling worth, and contains a mass of reliable information. The amateur gardener will find full directions for the management of his garden every month of the year. The mode of flowering Balsams in the open air, and training Geraniums without sticks, are curious articles, well worthy of notice. The lists of the best vegetables, the best approved show varieties of flowers, the new Dahlias to come out this year, and such like useful information, make this almanac a treasure to any gentleman or lady fond of a garden.

NOTES AND QUERIES.

DAHLIA CERTIFICATES.—Allow me to ask if your readers have seen the Dahlia Miss Burdett Coutts, and whether any of them would have ventured to let such a flower out in the present day? The colour does not recommend it, and the shape would hardly have done ten years ago. Is not the flower far too open for the present day? yet the National gives it a certificate, of course! But I ask those who profess to be judges whether it is fit that such a flower should be sent out at half-a-guinea?

I. I.

MARCH—VOL. X.

K

FLOWER POTS.—There are plenty of persons who use Phillips's pots. Mr. Woodroffe, the florist, used thousands of them, and at Kew Gardens they may be seen of all sizes, from two inches to twenty-two inches across; sizes that from any other pottery fall to pieces as soon as they are filled with roots. R. S.

CHEAP SEEDS.—I can account for the difference easily enough. My employer was taken with the advertisement of one hundred packets for five shillings. In the first place a regular seedsman's packet would in quantity make twenty of the cheap ones; and in the next, not more than thirty germinated at all. I was not sorry to witness the "take in." This year I am allowed to go to a respectable source. A GARDENER.

CUTTINGS INSTEAD OF PLANTS.—The transmission of cuttings by post is very common now. A nurseryman at Dursley has actually printed a catalogue of the prices of cuttings. The double advantage is in the additional convenience and the small cost of carriage. ARNOLD.

MOWING MACHINES.—I have seen these at work in several gardens, and I must say they are welcome helpmates, because they are used when the grass is dry, which in summer time is convenient. I think every gardener who has much lawn ought to have a hand machine, if the quantity does not warrant the use of a horse. P. T.

CALENDAR OF OPERATIONS, FOR MARCH.

FLOWER GARDEN.

CHRYSANTHEMUMS should be prepared, and planted out in beds or borders, that they may be got into a growing state before the season for striking their tops, or be flowered as they stand.

Auriculas will begin to grow fast, and, unless you are particularly in want of increase, you will strengthen the bloom by taking off the side shoots small. They greatly retard the main bloom if permitted to grow on the plant.

Carnations, Picotees, Pinks, Pansies, Hyacinths, Tulips, &c., must have the treatment already recommended continued throughout the present month. They cannot have too much air in mild weather.

Annuals may be sown in the borders, and also in heat, and autumn-sown annuals may be planted out.

Take off cuttings of **Dahlias** from those already in heat; put one cutting each into the smallest No. 60 pots, and place them

in the hot bed to strike. Water them all over the foliage, but keep off the sun.

Tender annuals may be sown in heat, in pots.

Borders in which there are bulbs, should be dug and cleared as soon as the contents show above ground.

KITCHEN GARDEN.

Sow a few early Turnips, in a warm, sheltered situation, after rain or watering the ground, and if there be dry weather, they must be watered freely till up.

Plant a few Potatoes, whole sets, of moderate size and early kinds.

Plant out Beans from the seed bed, as soon as they are large enough, in rows three feet apart, and the plants about three inches apart in the rows. Earth any that may be up where they were sown, and put in seed where they are to remain.

Continue to sow a few Radishes, if they are required, to succeed those sown last month.

Sow some early Carrots in a sheltered situation; in drills, or you may sow broadcast, if preferred.

Examine the heat of the Cucumber and Melon frames, and if it has materially declined, give fresh linings of hot stable dung. Let the plants have air by tilting the back of the glasses a little, or if the sun be powerful, raise them two inches. Do not allow too many fruit to swell at once, and continue to cover at nights. Sow Cucumbers to ridge out about the middle of the month: sow as before, two or three in a pot.

Sow Broccoli for early crops, to come in for the autumn.

Sow some Cauliflower seeds in a warm situation, in rich ground, and plant out those in frames. Earth up those under hand-glasses.

Sow Cabbage of the early sorts, in a warm border or quarter, and plant out from the autumn sown. Plant Red Cabbage, if not done.

Sow some Celery seed in pots or boxes, to put into a cucumber frame, and grow it for early planting.

Sow Onions for a crop. The seed must be well, but not deeply, covered, and well trodden or rolled in.

Sow more Peas for a succession. The earlier sown ones already up must be cleared, and earth drawn so their stems. Stick those that require it.

Lettuce may be sown for succession. Plant out in warm situations.

Spread rotten dung over Asparagus beds, two inches thick, and fork it in carefully. Make new beds this month.

Spinach should be sown every three weeks, if you use much, and in proper quantities.

Sow Parsley round the edge of borders, or in rows eighteen inches apart.

FLORAL EXHIBITIONS.

LEICESTER SOCIETY OF AMATEUR FLORISTS,

At the Wicliffe Rooms, Leicester, July 12.

ROSES.

Pans of Six Blooms.—1. Kean, Coup d'Hebe, W. Griffiths, Auguste Mie, Geant des Batailles, and Smith's Yellow Noisette, R. Marris. 2. Paul Ricaut, Coup d'Hebe, Kean, Stadtholder, Prince Albert, and Letitia, W. P. Cox. 3. Ohl, Geant des Batailles, General Castelaïne, Paul Dupuy, Guerrin's Gift, and Baron Prevost, H. Bates. 4. Stadtholder, Coup d'Hebe, Mrs. Elliott, Geant des Batailles, and two unknown, W. Mitchell. 5. Paul Ricaut, Madame Laffay, Duchess of Sutherland, Boule de Nantieul, Mrs. Elliott, and unknown, F. W. Hollyoake.

Pans of Three Blooms.—1. Coup d'Hebe, Auguste Mie, and Smith's Noisette, R. Marris. 2. Coup d'Hebe, Boule de Nantieul, and Letitia, W. P. Cox. 3. Paul Dupuy, Mrs. Rivers, and Chenedole, H. Bates.

PINKS.

Pans of Six Blooms.—1. Colchester Cardinal, seedling (Iphigenia), seedling (B 1855), Diadem, Turner's Mrs. Judd, seedling (D 1855), R. Marris. 2. Marris's Diadem, Adelaide, Theresa, Turner's Phoenix, Sarah, and seedling, W. Mitchell. 3. Marris's Geraldine and Theresa, Jones's Huntsman, Lightbody's Maritana, and M'Lean's Criterion and Mrs. M'Lean, G. Hudson. 4. Three seedlings, Cant's Criterion, Turner's Sarah, and Mrs. Judd, F. W. Hollyoake. 5. M'Lean's Mrs. M'Lean, Looker's Ariel, Jones's Huntsman, Blackeyed Susan, and Lightbody's Annot Lyle, R. Marris.

Pans of Three Blooms.—1. Colchester Cardinal, M'Lean's New Criterion, and Turner's Sarah, R. Marris. 2. Marris's Theresa, Turner's Sarah, and Lightbody's Maritana, G. Hudson. 3. Marris's Geraldine, Adelaide, and Turner's Sarah, H. Bates. 4. Seedling (Beppo), Jones's Huntsman, and Cant's Criterion, F. W. Hollyoake. 5. Marris's Diadem and Angelina, and Turner's Constance, W. Mitchell.

Purple-laced.

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------|-----------|
| 1 | Genevieve (seedling), | R. Marris |
| 2 | Alfred (seedling), | ditto |
| 3 | Ditto, | ditto |
| 4 | Genevieve | ditto |
| 5 | Alfred, | ditto |
| 6 | Joseph Sturge, | ditto |
| 7 | Seedling, G. Hudson | |
| 8 | Ditto, | ditto |

Red-laced.

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| 1 | Turner's Mrs. Judd, R. Marris |
| 2 | M'Lean's New Criterion, ditto |
| 3 | Marris's Volusia, ditto |
| 4 | Angelina, ditto |

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| 5 | New Criterion, R. Marris |
| 6 | Angelina, W. Mitchell |
| 7 | Geraldine, R. Marris |
| 8 | Turner's Sarah, ditto |

Black and White.

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| 1 | Diadem, R. Marris |
| 2 | Diadem, F. W. Hollyoake |
| 3 | Blackeyed Susan, R. Marris |
| 4 | Ditto, ditto |
| 5 | Seedling, ditto |
| 6 | Ditto, ditto |
| 7 | Diadem, ditto |
| 8 | Seedling, ditto |

August 14th.

A seedling picotee of great merit, raised by the Rev. S. Wigg, together with other fine blooms of established varieties from him, were prevented from being brought into competition by an accidental oversight in omitting to label them. Subjoined are the judges' awards.

CARNATIONS.

Stands of Six Blooms.—1. Lodge's True Briton, May's Poor Tom, Haines's Black Diamond, May's Galatea, Parker's Captain Franklin, and Jackson's Mr. Jephson, R. Marris. 2. Holliday's Lord Rancilffe, Haines's Black Diamond, Jackson's Mr. Jephson Kay's Splendour, Netherwood's Companion, and Ely's Lady Ely, F. W. Hollyoake. 3. Holliday's Lord Rancilffe, May's Aglala, ditto, Esom's Admiral Curson, Holland's Seedling No. 1 (purple flake), and Wallis's Cradley Pet, J. D. Hextall. 4. Brabbins's

Squire Meynell, Lodge's True Briton, Tomlin's Brisies, Jackson's Squire Trow, Hardwick's Firebrand, and Kay's Splendour, W. Mitchell.

Stands of Three Blooms.—1. Holland's Seedling No. 1 (purple flake), May's King John, and May's Falconbridge, R. Marris. 2. Holland's Seedling No. 2, Ely's Lord Milton, and Atterton's Fanny Gardiner, J. D. Hextall, 3. Kay's Splendour, Hale's Prince Albert, and Atterton's Fanny Gardiner, H. Bates. 4. Baildon's Constellation, Haines's Black Diamond, and Jackson's Mr. Jephson, F. W. Hollyoake.

Scarlet Bizarres.

- 1 Holliday's Lord Rancilffe, J. Hextall
- 2 Holland's Mr. Ainsworth, R. Marris
- 3 Lodge's True Briton, W. Mitchell
- 4 Ditto, ditto
- 5 Admiral Curzon, ditto
- 6 Ditto, ditto
- 7 Lord Rancilffe, ditto
- 8 Ditto, ditto

Crimson Bizarres.

- 1 Ely's Lord Milton, J. D. Hextall
- 2 Haines's Black Diamond, W. P. Cox
- 3 Haines's Black Diamond, F. W. Hollyoake
- 4 Wood's South London, J. D. Hextall
- 5 Haines's Black Diamond, R. Marris
- 6 Ditto, ditto
- 7 Haines's Black Diamond, F. W. Hollyoake
- 8 May's Falconbridge, R. Marris

Scarlet Flakes.

- 1 Hardwick's Firebrand, W. P. Cox
- 2 Hardwick's Firebrand, J. D. Hextall
- 3 Simpson's Victoria, R. Marris

- 4 Kay's Splendour, J. D. Hextall
- 5 Hardwick's Firebrand, ditto
- 6 Schofield's Pride, R. Marris
- 7 Firebrand, W. Mitchell
- 8 Ditto, ditto

Rose Flakes.

- 1 May's King John, J. D. Hextall
- 2 May's Poor Tom, R. Marris
- 3 Lady Ely, F. W. Hollyoake
- 4 Ditto, ditto
- 5 Uncle Tom, ditto
- 6 Lady Ely, W. Mitchell
- 7 Tomlin's Brisies, ditto
- 8 Ditto, ditto

Purple Flakes.

- 1 Jackson's Mr. Jephson, R. Marris
- 2 Ditto, ditto
- 3 Netherwood's Companion, J. Hextall
- 4 Squire Trow, W. Mitchell
- 5 Squire Meynell, ditto
- 6 Ditto, ditto
- 7 Holliday's Queen of Purples, W. Mitchell
- 8 Ditto, ditto

PICOTERS.

Stands of Six Blooms.—1. Marris's Bertha, Prince of Wales, Jeanette, and Bellona, Fellowes's Haidee, and Bayley's Duke of Devonshire, R. Marris. 2. Hollyoake's Irene and Nina, Headly's Venus, Matthews's Bridesmaid, Dodwell's Alfred, and Marris's Prince of Wales, F. W. Hollyoake. 3. Marris's Jeanette and Bellona, Bayley's Duke of Devonshire, Youell's Gem, Hollyoake's Rutland, and Headly's Venus, W. Mitchell. 4. Edmonds's Jenny Lind, Lightbody's Duchess of Buccleugh, Headly's Venus, Fellowes's Giulio Romano, May's Calliope, and Fellowes's Prince Arthur, J. D. Hextall.

Stands of Three Blooms.—1. Marris's Countess Howe, Carollina, and Prince of Wales, R. Marris. 2. Hollyoake's Nina, Rutland, and Irene, F. W. Hollyoake. 3. Hollyoake's Nina, Norman's Lord Nelson, and Wildman's Isabella, R. Marris.

Light-edged Red.

- 1 Marris's Prince of Wales, R. Marris
- 2 Ditto, ditto
- 3 Seedling, W. Mitchell
- 4 Ditto, ditto
- 5 Youell's Gem, ditto
- 6 Kirtland's Miss Holbeck
- 7 Youell's Gem, W. Mitchell
- 8 Ditto, ditto

Heavy-edged Red.

- 1 Marris's Prince of Wales, J. Hextall
- 2 Robinson's Elizabeth, W. P. Cox
- 3 Fellowes's Giulio Romano, R. Marris
- 4 Ditto, ditto
- 5 Norman's Mrs. Norman, ditto
- 6 Marris's Bellona, W. Mitchell
- 7 Hoyles's Mrs. Hoyles, R. Marris
- 8 Marris's Prince of Wales, J. Hextall

Light-edged Purple.

- 1 Florence Nightingale (se.), R. Marris
- 2 Holland's Miss Holland, ditto
- 3 Seedling No. 3, ditto
- 4 Dodwell's Alfred, J. D. Hextall
- 5 Seedling No. 3, R. Marris
- 6 May's Juliet, J. D. Hextall
- 7 Lightbody's Seedling, ditto
- 8 Fellowes's Haidee, F. W. Hollyoake

Heavy-edged Purple.

- 1 Garratt's King of Purples, R. Marris
- 2 Norman's Lord Nelson, J. Hextall
- 3 Garratt's King of Purples, Hollyoake
- 4 Hollyoake's D. of Rutland, Mitchell
- 5 Ditto, ditto
- 6 Garratt's King of Purples, R. Marris
- 7 Duke of Rutland, W. Mitchell
- 8 Ditto, ditto

Light-edged Rose.

- 1 Dodwell's No. 39, R. Marris
- 2 Seedling, ditto
- 3 May's Calliope, W. P. Cox
- 4 Seedling, R. Marris
- 5 Seedling, H. Bates
- 6 Ditto, ditto
- 7 Seedling, W. Mitchell
- 8 Ditto, ditto

Heavy-edged Rose.

- 1 Headly's Venus, W. Mitchell
- 2 Hollyoake's Irene, J. D. Hextall
- 3 Marris's Jeanette, W. Mitchell
- 4 Marris's Jeanette, R. Marris
- 5 Headly's Venus, F. W. Hollyoake
- 6 Headly's Venus, J. D. Hextall
- 7 Headly's Venus, W. Mitchell
- 8 Marris's Unexpected, J. D. Hextall

PINK SHOW.

The members of the Lancashire, Cheshire, and Staffordshire Pink Society held their annual meeting, at the house of Mr. Joseph Ollerenshaw, Queen's Arms Inn, Hurtsfield, Macclesfield, on Saturday, July 14. The flowers were of the first quality, and the stage was tastefully decorated.

1st stand (a silver cup), Jones's Huntsman, Etchell's Susanna, Kay's Mary, E. Clegg. 2nd. Jones's Huntsman, Etchell's Susanna, Blackeyed Susan, J. Knott. 3rd. Blackeyed Susan, Etchell's Susanna, Kay's Mary, J. Knott. Extra purple-laced, Blackeyed Susan, S. Gregory. Extra red-laced, Etchell's Susanna, J. Knott. Extra black and white, Blackeyed Susan, J. Knott.

Ten shillings, the gift of Mr. Wm. Whittaker, for the best bloom of his seedling, Guido, was won by J. Knott, of Ashton-under-Lyne.

Purple-laced.

- 1 Blackeyed Susan, T. Mellor
- 2 Jones's Huntsman, E. Clegg
- 3 Mango, J. L. Newbold
- 4 Captain Reece, ditto
- 5 Seedling No. 32, J. Simmonite
- 6 Buckley's Glory, T. Mellor
- 7 Greensides, J. Hambleton
- 8 Seedling, No. 18, J. Simmonite
- 9 Uncle Tom, ditto
- 10 Thunder, E. Clegg

Red-laced.

- 1 Etchell's Susanna, J. L. Newbold
- 2 Joseph Sturge, S. Raynor
- 3 Catherine (seedling), W. Griffiths
- 4 No. 9, J. Simmonite
- 5 No. 18, ditto

- 6 Dan O'Rourke, T. Mellor
- 7 Richard Cobden, S. Raynor
- 8 Seedling No. 36, J. Simmonite
- 9 Jephson's Queen, ditto
- 10 Sir William, W. Griffiths

Black and White.

- 1 Blackeyed Susan, S. Raynor
- 2 Virgin Queen, W. Griffiths
- 3 Beauty of Home, S. Raynor
- 4 Lady Boldhaughton, J. Knott
- 5 Kay's Mary, W. Griffiths
- 6 Margaret, E. Barker
- 7 Seedling, J. L. Newbold
- 8 Lady Frost, J. Simmonite
- 9 Beauty of Blackburn, S. Mountford
- 10 Miss Jessop, J. Knott

PINK SHOW.

At Mr. J. Smithies', Woodman Inn, Middleton, Lancashire, July 14.

Judges.—Messrs. J. Clegg, D. Jackson, and J. Jaques.

1st pan, Duke, Sturge, and Beauty of Home, C. Stott. 2nd. Huntsman, seedling, and Blackeyed Susan, J. Beckwith. 3rd. Huntsman, Sturge, and Superior, T. Lancashire. 4th. Huntsman, Sturge, and Snowball, J. Lancashire. 5th (maiden pan), Huntsman, Cobden, and Kay's Mary, D. Firth.

Purple-laced.

- 1 Mango, H. Howarth, jun.
- 2 Huntsman, J. Beswick
- 3 Glory, T. Lancashire
- 4 Duke, J. Lancashire
- 5 Oakland's Mary, ditto
- 6 Attractive, H. Howarth, sen.
- 7 Seedling, J. Smithies
- 8 Beauty of Rochdale Howarth, jun.

Red-laced.

- 1 Sturge, J. Smithies
- 2 Stockwell, T. Lancashire
- 3 Sir William, H. Howarth, sen.
- 4 Seedling, J. Beswick

- 5 Susanna, J. Beswick
- 6 Criterion, ditto
- 7 Little Wonder, ditto
- 8 Doctor Hepworth, C. Stott

Black and White.

- 1 Blackeyed Susan, H. Howarth, sen.
- 2 Lady Boldhaughton, J. Burgas
- 3 Seedling, J. Smithies
- 4 Beauty of Home, C. Stott
- 5 Kay's Mary, ditto
- 6 Snowball, ditto
- 7 Miss Jessop, ditto
- 8 Milman's Lella, J. Beswick

NORTHAMPTON AND NORTHAMPTONSHIRE FLORAL AND
HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

At the Swan and Helmet Inn, Northampton, August 8.

CARNATIONS.

Twelve Blooms.—1. Admiral Curzon, Lord Rancilffe, True Briton, Lord Milton, Black Diamond, Firebrand, Lady Ely, Miss Ann, Ariel, seedling, Beauty of Woodhouse, and Squire Meynell, H. Archer. 2. Lord Rancilffe, Prince Albert, Admiral Curzon, Lord Palmerston (Carter), J. A. Padmore, Lord Milton, Black Diamond, Count Pauline, Firebrand, Squire Meynell, Squire Trow, and Lorenzo, J. Holliday.

Six Blooms.—1. Admiral Curzon, Count Pauline, Lord Milton, Firebrand, seedling (Holliday), and Squire Trow, S. Haddon. 2. Lord Rancilffe, Wellington (Smith), Queen Victoria (Puxley), Firebrand, Lovely Ann, and Napoleon, Powell, Wellingborough.

Scarlet Bizarres.

- 1 Admiral Curzon, Haddon
- 2 True Briton, Archer
- 3 Admiral Curzon, Carter

Crimson Bizarres.

- 1 Lord Milton, Haddon
- 2 J. A. Padmore, Holliday
- 3 Lord Milton, Archer

Scarlet Flakes.

- 1 Firebrand, Powell

- 2 Firebrand, T. Hills

- 3 Firebrand, Carter

Rose Flakes.

- 1 Lady Ely, Archer

- 2 Ariel, Haddon

- Miss Ann, Powell

Purple Flakes.

- 1 Squire Meynell, Holliday

- 2 Earl Spencer, Carter

- 3 Squire Trow, Haddon

PICOTEES.

Twelve Blooms.—1. Miss Wake, Macbeth, Queen Victoria (Green), Mrs. Norman, Miss Bouverie, Princess Royal, Venus, Mrs. Barnard, Duke of Rutland, Juliet, King James, and Delicata, J. Holliday. 2. Mrs. Barnard, Queen Victoria, Princess Royal, Sebastian, Miss Wake, Duke of Rutland, Princess of Wales, Mr. Trahar, and three seedlings (Haddon), S. Haddon. 3. Venus, Queen Victoria, Queen of Roses, Mrs. Norman, Portia, Mrs. Bevan, Prince Arthur, Ganymede, King James, Miss Wake, Mary (Dodwell), and Mr. Trahar, H. Archer.

Six Blooms.—1. Isabella, Queen Victoria, Gem, Duchess, Cambridge, and Alfred, Powell. 2. Mrs. Barnard, Prince of Wales, Miss Wake, Miss Franklin, King James, unknown, T. Hills.

Heavy-edged Red.

- 1 Mr. Trahar, Haddon
- 2 King James, Holliday
- 3 King James, Archer

Light-edged Red.

- 1 Miss Wake, Haddon
- 2 Miss Wake, Holliday
- 3 Miss Wake, T. Hills

Heavy-edged Purple.

- 1 Miss Bouverie, Haddon
- 2 Lord Nelson, Holliday
- 3 Duke of Devonshire, Vials

Light-edged Purple.

- 1 Ganymede, Archer

- 2 Juliana, Holliday

- 3 Delicata, Vials

Heavy-edged Rose.

- 1 Venus, Archer

- 2 Venus, Holliday

- 3 Queen Victoria, Powell

Light-edged Rose.

- 1 Mrs. Barnard, Holliday

- 2 Mrs. Barnard, Haddon

- 3 Queen of Roses, Carter

Yellow Ground.

- 1 Queen Victoria, Holliday

- 2 Queen Victoria, Powell

OXFORD FLORISTS' CARNATION AND PICOTEE SOCIETY.

The eighth annual exhibition of this society was held in Mr. Colcutt's garden, St. Aldate's, Oxford, August 9th. The competition in most of the classes was unusually great, and the flowers of a very superior character.

CARNATIONS.

Scarlet Bizarres.

- 1 Mr. Ainsworth, W. Plaister
- 2 Admiral Curzon, T. S. Cook

- 3 Admiral Curzon, E. Walker

- 4 Admiral Curzon, J. Wheatley

- 5 Brierley's Music, T. Looker

Crimson Bizarres.

- 1 Lord Milton, J. Maltby
- 2 Seedling, W. Colcutt
- 3 Misnomer, G. Kirtland
- 4 King of Carnations, E. Walker
- 5 Rainbow, W. Plaister

Pink and Purple Bizarres.

- 1 Falconbridge, G. Kirtland
 - 2 Falconbridge, J. Maltby
- Scarlet Flakes.*
- 1 Wilson's William, W. Colcutt
 - 2 Brilliant, G. Kirtland

- 3 May's Valentine, J. Maltby
- 4 Firebrand, T. Looker

Rose Flakes.

- 1 Poor Tom, J. Maltby
- 2 Duchess of Gloucester, G. Kirtland
- 3 May's Ariel, W. Plaister
- 4 Flora's Garland, T. S. Cook

Purple Flakes.

- 1 Squire Meynell, W. Plaister
- 2 Squire Meynell, J. Maltby
- 3 Earl Wilton, G. Kirtland
- 4 Squire Meynell, Bell

PICOTEES.

Light-edged Red.

- 1 Youell's Gem, E. Walker
- 2 Seedling, G. Kirtland
- 3 Miss Holbeck, J. Maltby
- 4 Gem, T. S. Cook
- 5 Rosetta, J. Payne

Heavy-edged Red.

- 1 Mrs. Norman, T. Looker
- 2 Mrs. Norman, W. Plaister
- 3 Mrs. Norman, G. Kirtland
- 4 Mrs. Norman, J. Stevens
- 5 Mrs. Norman, J. Maltby
- 6 Mrs. Headly, J. Payne
- 7 Mrs. Norman, Bell

Light-edged Purple.

- 1 Countess Waldegrave, T. S. Cook
- 2 National, G. Kirtland
- 3 Countess Waldegrave, J. Maltby
- 4 Fellowes's Haidee, T. Looker

- 5 Waldegrave, Bell

- 6 Eliza, J. Payne

Heavy-edged Purple.

- 1 Lord Nelson, G. Kirtland
- 2 Fellowes's Countess, J. Payne
- 3 May's Bianca, J. Maltby

Light-edged Rose.

- 1 Mrs. Barnard, T. S. Cook
- 2 Miss Puxley, G. Kirtland
- 3 Turner's Ariel, J. Payne

Heavy-edged Rose.

- 1 Venus, J. Maltby
- 2 Venus, T. S. Cook
- 3 Princess Royal, G. Kirtland
- 4 Princess Royal, W. Colcutt

Intermediate Edge.

- 1 Dodwell's Alfred, J. Payne
- 2 Mrs. Headly, G. Kirtland
- 3 General Bem, J. Maltby

CARNATION SHOW,

At Ounsdale, Aug. 18,

Stand of Five Blooms.—True Briton, Lord Milton, Brilliant, Squire Trow, and Magnificent, J. Guest.

Scarlet Bizarres.

- 1 True Briton, G. Addis
- 2 Admiral Curzon, J. Elliott
- 3 Ditto, ditto
- 4 Constellation, J. Guest
- 5 Lord Ranccliffe, J. Tunley
- 6 Curzon, J. Guest

Crimson Bizarres.

- 1 Black Diamond, J. Tunley
- 2 Black Diamond, G. Addis
- 3 Ditto, ditto
- 4 Lord Milton, J. Elliott
- 5 Black Diamond, G. Addis
- 6 Ditto, ditto

Rose Flakes.

- 1 Lady Ely, G. Addis
- 2 May's Ariel, J. Tunley
- 3 Miss Napier, J. Elliott
- 4 Lady Ely, J. Guest
- 5 Miss Napier, J. Elliott
- 6 Ditto, ditto

Scarlet Flakes.

- 1 Firebrand, C. Addis
- 2 Brilliant, J. Guest
- 3 Lady Rhodes, J. Elliott
- 4 Cradley Pet, J. Guest
- 5 Cradley Pet, J. Elliott
- 6 Seedling, ditto

Purple Flakes.

- 1 Agamemnon, J. Tunley
- 2 Squire Trow, ditto
- 3 Albion, J. Elliott
- 4 Squire Meynell, ditto
- 5 Squire Trow, J. Guest
- 6 Queen of Purples, J. Tunley

PICOTEES.

Red.

- 1 Cambridge, J. Elliott
- 2 Prince of Wales, J. Tunley
- 3 Cambridge, G. Addis
- 4 Princess Royal, J. Tunley
- 5 Elizabeth, J. Guest
- 6 Mrs. Barnard, J. Elliott

Purple.

- 1 Alfred, J. Tunley
- 2 Haldee, G. Addis
- 3 May's Portia, ditto

- 4 Lord Nelson, J. Guest
- 5 May's Portia, J. Elliott
- 6 May's Portia, J. Tunley

LEEDS CENTRAL FLORAL SOCIETY.

CARNATION SHOW.

At Mr. J. Bramma's, Nag's Head Inn, August 13.

1st pan, Admiral Curzon, Franklin, Splendour, Mr. Jephson, Constellation, Mrs. Horner, and Mary Ellen, W. Chadwick. 2nd. Curzon, Milton, Firebrand, Premier, Uncle Tom, Prince Arthur, and Prince of Wales, G. Foster.

Scarlet Bizarres.

- 1 Admiral Curzon, E. Schofield
- 2 Admiral Curzon, I. B. shell
- 3 Admiral Curzon, I. Chadwick
- 4 Ditto, ditto
- 5 Admiral Curzon, W. Chadwick
- 6 Admiral Curzon, I. Chadwick

Pink Bizarres.

- 1 Seedling, I. Fryer
- 2 Franklin, I. Chadwick
- 3 Milton, W. Chadwick
- 4 Milton, E. Schofield
- 5 Franklin, I. Chadwick
- 6 Ditto, ditto

Scarlet Flakes.

- 1 Firebrand, G. Foster
- 2 Firebrand, E. Schofield
- 3 Ditto, ditto
- 4 Firebrand, I. Chadwick
- 5 Ivanhoe, ditto
- 6 Earl of Errol, ditto

Purple Flakes.

- 1 Squire Meynell, G. Foster
- 2 Lady Peel, I. Chadwick
- 3 Bonny Bess, E. Schofield
- 4 Lady Peel, I. Chadwick

1st premium bloom, Admiral Curzon, W. Chadwick. 2. Uncle Tom, G. Foster.

- 5 Bonny Bess, E. Schofield
- 6 Lady Dover, E. Chadwick

Rose Flakes.

- 1 Uncle Tom, G. Foster
- 2 Uncle Tom, I. Fryer
- 3 Uncle Tom, G. Foster
- 4 Uncle Tom, I. Boshell
- 5 Uncle Tom, E. Schofield
- 6 Lady Ely, ditto

PICOTEES.

Scarlet.

- 1 Prince of Wales, I. Chadwick
- 2 Prince of Wales, E. Schofield
- 3 Mrs Norman, W. Chadwick
- 4 Ditto, ditto
- 5 Ditto, ditto
- 6 Mrs. Norman, E. Schofield

Purple.

- 1 Regina, E. Schofield
- 2 May's Ophelia, W. Chadwick
- 3 Prince Arthur, G. Foster
- 4 Mary Ellen, I. Fryer
- 5 Surprise, W. Chadwick
- 6 Ditto, ditto

DAHLIA SHOW.

At Mr. J. Bramma's, September 17.

1st pan, Annie, John Keynes, Pre. eminent, Rose of England, Laura Lavington, and Annie Salter, I. Cliff. 2nd. Wellington, Sir F. Bathurst, Shylock, Beauty of Slough, Gosparint, and Eldorado, I. Boshell.

1st premier bloom, Annie, I. Cliff. 2nd. Triumphant, E. Schofield.

Marone and Dark Purple.

- 1 Beauty of Versailles, I. Boshell
- 2 Bishop of Hereford, I. Cliff
- 3 Beauty of Versailles, E. Schofield
- 4 Lord Mayor, I. Boshell
- 5 Bishop of Hereford, I. Cliff
- 6 Gem of the Grove, ditto

Crimson and Scarlet.

- 1 Triumphant, E. Schofield
- 2 Sir F. Bathurst, ditto
- 3 Sir C. Napier, ditto
- 4 Scarlet King, ditto
- 5 Sir F. Bathurst, I. Cliff
- 6 Sir F. Bathurst, E. Schofield

Lilac and Rose.

- 1 Lilac King, E. Schofield
- 2 Mr. Seidon, ditto
- 3 Queen of Lilacs, I. Boshell

- 4 Queen of Lilacs, E. Schofield
- 5 Plantagenet, I. Boshell
- 6 Rose of England, ditto

Yellow and Buff

- 1 Eldorado, I. Boshell
- 2 Primrose Perfection, E. Schofield
- 3 Eldorado, I. Boshell
- 4 Primrose Perfection, I. Boshell
- 5 Ditto, ditto
- 6 King of Yellows, E. Schofield

White and Blush.

- 1 Miss Caroline, E. Schofield
- 2 Exquisite, ditto
- 3 Lady of the Lake, I. Boshell
- 4 Miss Caroline, ditto
- 5 Snowflake, ditto
- 6 Miss Caroline, ditto

Orange and Bronze.

- 1 Duke of Wellington, E. Schofield
- 2 Duke of Wellington, I. Cliff
- 3 Ditto, ditto
- 4 Duke of Wellington, I. Fryer
- 5 Karendon. I. Boshell
- 6 Duke of Wellington, E. Schofield

Tipped.

- 1 Queen of Beauties, E. Schofield
- 2 Mrs. Hansard, ditto
- 3 Annie Salter, I. Cliff
- 4 Beauty of the Grove, E. Schofield
- 5 Topsy, I. Cliff
- 6 Reine des Fleurs, ditto

MIDDLETON FLORAL AND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

Tuesday, August 21.

CARNATIONS.

Scarlet Bizarres.

- 1 Admiral Curzon, J. Taylor
- 2 Prince of Wales, W. Taylor
- 3 Duke of Sutherland, R. J. Kaye
- 4 Mr. Ainsworth, ditto
- 5 Mr. Peto, W. Taylor
- 6 Gameboy, R. J. Kaye

Crimson Bizarres.

- 1 Lord Milton, J. Taylor
- 2 William Caxton, J. Bamford
- 3 Rainbow (Cartwright), J. Taylor
- 4 Nulli Secundus, J. Slater
- 5 King of Carnations, ditto
- 6 Paul Pry, R. J. Kaye

Scarlet Flakes.

- 1 Cradley Pet, W. Taylor
- 2 Magnet, R. J. Kaye
- 3 York and Lancaster, ditto

- 4 Middleton Hero, J. Bamford
- 5 William IV., ditto
- 6 Queen Victoria (Simpson), J. Whitehead

Rose Flakes.

- 1 Jenny Lind (Lee), J. Mills
- 2 Lady Ely, R. J. Kaye
- 3 Lovely Ann, ditto
- 4 Lady Gardiner, ditto
- 5 Apollo, ditto
- 6 Rosalind, ditto

Purple Flakes.

- 1 Squire Meynell, J. Bamford
- 2 Earl Wilton, W. Taylor
- 3 Mayor of Oldham, J. Bamford
- 4 Mr. Jephson, S. Brierley
- 5 Jolly Angler, ditto
- 6 Mango, J. Bamford

PICOTEEES.

Heavy-edged Purple.

- 1 Alfred, R. J. Kaye
- 2 Lord Nelson, S. Brierley
- 3 Nulli Secundus, J. Mills
- 4 Countess (Fellowes), J. Whitehead

Heavy-edged Red.

- 1 Prince of Wales, W. Taylor
- 2 Picnic, J. Taylor
- 3 Mrs. Headly, J. Whitehead
- 4 Mrs. Norman, J. Mills

Light-edged Purple.

- 1 Little Harry Bertram, J. Whitehead

- 2 Prince Arthur (Fellowes), J. Taylor
- 3 Haidee, R. J. Kaye
- 4 Delicata, W. Taylor

Light-edged Red.

- 1 Rosetta, J. Whitehead
- 2 Mrs. Kelk, ditto
- 3 Duchess of Bedford, R. J. Kaye
- 4 Youell's Gem, J. Bamford

Rose-edged.

- 1 Venus (Headly), R. J. Kaye
- 2 Lady Grenville, J. Slater
- 3 Helen, J. Whitehead

DAHLIAS.

Dark, Marone.

- 1 Summit of Perfection, J. Cheetham
- 2 Lord Mayor, S. Brierley
- 3 Bishop of Hereford, ditto
- 4 Beauty of Versailles, A. Gaunt
- 5 Attila, J. Cheetham

Crimson, or Ruby.

- 1 Sir F. Bathurst, J. Fitton
- 2 Triumphant, A. Gaunt
- 3 Sir R. Whittington, ditto
- 4 King of Dahlias, J. Fitton
- 5 Beeswing, A. Stott

Scarlet, or Red.

- 1 Cardinal Ferretti, J. Burgess
- 2 Sir R. Peel, E. Booth
- 3 Nil desperandum, J. Cheetham
- 4 Red Gauntlet, ditto
- 5 Shylock, ditto

Yellow.

- 1 King of the Yellows, E. Booth
- 2 Louisa Glenny, A. Gaunt

- 3 Queen of Primroses, A. Gaunt
- 4 Crocus, J. Cheetham
- 5 Eldorada, ditto

Orange, or Buff.

- 1 Robert Bruce, J. Fitton
- 2 Duke of Wellington, J. Cheetham
- 3 Unknown, ditto
- 4 Sir J. Franklin, Rev. R. Darnford
- 5 Unknown, J. Cheetham

Rose, Pink, or Lilac.

- 1 Sir F. Thesiger, J. Cheetham
- 2 Fearless, E. Booth
- 3 Madame Gaubert, J. Cheetham
- 4 Admira! (Bragg), ditto
- 5 Plantagenet, ditto

Fancy.

- 1 Mrs. Hansard, E. Booth
- 2 Forget me not, A. Gaunt
- 3 Miss Pope, J. Cheetham
- 4 Miss Jane, J. Bamford
- 5 Topsy, W. Macdonald

White.

- 1 Miss C., J. Cheetham
- 2 White Standard, A. Gaunt
- 3 Queen of Whites, ditto
- 4 Vesta, E. Booth
- 5 Cornwallis, A. Gaunt

Tipped.

- 1 Beauty of Slough, A. Gaunt
- 2 Queen Victoria, J. Cheetham
- 3 Sylph, Rev. R. Darnford
- 4 Princess Radziville, E. Booth
- 5 Port Royal, J. Cheetham

MIDLAND COUNTIES DAHLIA SOCIETY.

At the Exchange Rooms, Nottingham, Wednesday, September 12.

The blooms were decidedly the best grown and finest ever exhibited in Nottingham, and we very much doubt if they were ever surpassed.

DEALERS' PRIZES.

Twenty-four Dissimilar Blooms.—1. Mr. S. Taylor, Nottingham, for John Keynes, Beauty of Slough, Robert Bruce, Pre-eminent, Comte de Chambord, Agincourt, General Faucher, Ada, Duke of Wellington, Primrose Perfection, Miss Caroline, Scarlet King, Mr. Seldon, Defiance, Rachel Rawlings, Cossack, Danecroft Beauty, Lilac King, Triumphant, Sir F. Bathurst, Empress Constance, Ruby Queen, and Lady Bathurst. 2. M. Edwards, Nuttall, Agincourt, Fanny Keynes, Robert Bruce, Beauty of Slough, Pre-eminent, Ada, Scarlet King, John Keynes, Sir R. Peel, Magnificent, Niobe, Bishop of Hereford, Annie, Negro, Rachel Rawlings, Duke of Wellington, Sir F. Bathurst, seedling, Mr. Dugere, Golden Eagle, Dictator, Sir C. Napier, Lord Bath, and Ringleader. 3. Mr. W. Edwards, John Keynes, Dictator, Magnificent, Pre-eminent, Ada, Sir R. Whittington, Niobe, Duke of Wellington, Beauty of Slough, Scarlet King, Golden Eagle, Sir F. Bathurst, Agincourt, Annie Salter, Bishop of Hereford, Sir R. Peel, Napoleon, Annie, Rachel Rawlings, seedling, Sir C. Napier, seedling, Robert Bruce, and seedling.

Twelve Dissimilar Fancy Blooms.—1. Mr. R. Edwards, Nuttall, for Miss Ward, Baron Alderson, Princess Charlotte, Triomphe de Roubaix, Lady Franklin, Belle of the Village, Topsy, Attraction, Reine des Fleurs, Comet, Mrs. Hansard, and Pigeon. 2. Mr. S. Taylor, Nottingham, Wonderful, Triumphant, Reine des Belges, Marvel, Topsy, Miss Frampton, Unanimity, Baron Alderson, Motley, Pigeon, Butterfly, and Triomphe de Roubaix. 3. Mr. W. Edwards, Nuttall, Mrs. Hansard, Baron Alderson, Brabant, Triomphe de Roubaix, Reine des Fleurs, Topsy, Miss Ward, Surprise, Empereur de Maroc, Miss Frampton, Comet, and Pigeon.

AMATEURS' PRIZES.

Twenty-four Dissimilar Blooms.—1. Mr. T. Dalton, Nottingham, for Scarlet King, Rachel Rawlings, Fanny Keynes, Ada, J. Keynes, Comte de Chambord, Defiance, Brilliant, Eldorado, Duke of Wellington, Sir R. Whittington, Miss Caroline, Amazon, Robert Bruce, King of the Yellows, Pre-eminent, Ruby Queen, Annie, Rose of England, Miss Susan, Primrose Perfection, Sir F. Bathurst, Beauty of Slough, and Queen of Whites. 2. Mr. T. Dalton, Comte de Chambord, Amazon, King of the Yellows, John Keynes, Sir F. Bathurst, Beauty of Slough, Pre-eminent, Fanny Keynes, Ada, Robert Bruce, Miss Caroline, Duke of Wellington, Eldorado, Annie, Scarlet King, Rachel Rawlings, Defiance, Ruby Queen, Rose of England, Sir C. Napier, Lilac King, Primrose Perfection, Miss Susan, and Sir R. Peel. 3. Mr. J. Huskinson, Nottingham, Nonpareil, Comte de Chambord, Defiance, Ruby Queen, Miss Caroline, Summit of Perfection, Robert Bruce, Surprise, Beauty of Slough, Scarlet King, Mr. Seldon, Pre-eminent, Sir F. Bathurst, John Keynes, Rachel Rawlings, Primrose Perfection, Negro, Cardinal Ferretti, General Faucher, Danecroft Beauty, Malvina, Duke of Wellington, Miss Susan, and Ada.

Eighteen Dissimilar Blooms.—1. Mr. Shelton, Bulwell, for Ada, Roundhead, Eldorado, Mr. Seldon, Magnificent, Sir F. Bathurst, Amazon, Sir C. Napier, Black Diamond, John Keynes, Miss Susan, Rachel Rawlings, Lady Bathurst, Triumphant, Morning Star, Duke of Wellington, seedling, and Sir R. Whittington. 2. Mr. Seaman, Bulwell, Robert Bruce, Amazon, Beauty of Slough, Le President, seedling, Rachel Rawlings, Dictator, Sir R. Whittington, Duke of Wellington, Magnificent, seedling, Mr. Seldon, Malvina, General Faucher, Summit of Perfection, Mrs. Rawlings, Indispensable, and Beauty of England. 3. Mr. Bloar, Risley, Amazon, Antagonist, Beauty of Slough, Grand Duke, Ada, seedling, Comte de Chambord, Sir J. Franklin, Danecroft Beauty, Richard Cobden, seedling, Queen Victoria, Duke of Wellington, Jullien, Leader, Rachel Rawlings, Primrose Perfection, and John Keynes.

Twelve Dissimilar Blooms.—1. Mr. E. Morley, Chesterfield, General Faucher, King of Yellows, Bishop of Hereford, Lilac King, Miss Caroline, Duke of Wellington, Gem of the Grove, Morning Star, Admiral, Primrose Perfection, Dazzle, and Beauty of Versailles. 2. Mr. T. Houghton Hemphill, Beauty of Slough, Rachel Rawlings, Lord Bath, Eldorado, Bishop of Hereford, Lilac King, J. Keynes, Agincourt, Ada, Duke of Wellington, Sir C. Napier, and Annie Salter. 3. Mr. Dawson, Carlton-hill, General Faucher, Defiance, John Keynes, Annie Salter, King of Yellows, Ada, Negro. 4. Mr. T. Straw, Nottingham, Eldorado, Beauty of the Grove, Scarlet King, Queen of Lilacs, Edmund Foster, King of Yellows, Queen of Beauties, Primrose Perfection, Robert Bruce, Comte de Chambord, Ada and Jullien.

Nine Dissimilar Blooms.—1. Mr. Morley, Bulwell, for Rachel Rawlings, Mr. Seldon, Miss Susan, General Faucher, King of Yellows, Duke of Wellington, Robert Bruce, Essex Triumph, and Fearless. 2. Mr. E. Morley, Bulwell, Robert Bruce, Lady Bathurst, Duke of Wellington, Mr. Seldon, Amazon, Dictator, Black Diamond, Sir C. Napier, and Colonel Baker. 3. Mr. Charlesworth, Chesterfield, Mrs. E. Bacon, Beauty of Versailles, Dazzle, Duke of Wellington, Rachel Rawlings, General Faucher, Bishop of Hereford, Sir R. Whittington, and Lilac King.

Six Dissimilar Blooms.—1. Mr. J. H. Taylor, Nottingham, Lady St. Maud, Ada, Cardinal Ferretti, Duke of Wellington, Mr. Seldon, and Eldorado. 2. Mr. Tolev. Arnold, Ada, Bishop of Hereford, Amazon, British Queen, Duke of Wellington, and Mrs. Seldon. 3. Mr. S. G. Cooke, Nottingham, Queen of Whites, Sir F. Bathurst, Primrose Perfection, Edmund Foster, and Sir R. Peel. 4. Mr. Neville, Nottingham, Ada, Scarlet King, Duke of Wellington, John Keynes, Amazon, and Marchioness of Cornwallis.

WORTLEY AMATEUR GARDENERS' SOCIETY.

At the Queen Hotel, September 26.

DAHLIAS.

Judges.—Mr. D. Thornton, Mr. J. Rhodes, and Mr. W. Dobbins

Six Blooms.—1. J. Keynes, Queen of Beauties, Wellington, Primrose Perfection, Faucher, and Bathurst, E. Schofield. 2. Cornwallis, Queen of Beauties, Eldorado, Mrs. Hansard, Bathurst, and Beauty of Versailles, C. Walker. 3. Queen of Lilacs, Queen of Beauties, Wellington, Beauty of Versailles, Eldorado, and Bathurst, J. Hebden. 4. Wellington, Pre-eminent, Sulphurea elegans, Annie, Lord Bath, and John Keynes, D. Naylor.

Dark.

- 1 Bishop of Hereford, C. Walker
- 2 Beauty of Versailles, J. Cliff.
- 3 Lord Mayor, J. Hebden
- 4 Ditto, ditto

Yellow.

- 1 Eldorado, C. Walker
- 2 Ditto, ditto
- 3 Duchess of Kent, ditto
- 4 Eldorado, J. Hebden

Purple.

- 1 Pre-eminent, J. Cliff
- 2 R. Cobden, S. Ingham
- 3 Whittington, E. Schofield
- 4 Seldon, S. Schofield

Orange.

- 1 R. Bruce, J. Cliff
- 2 Wellington, J. Hebden
- 3 Wellington, S. Ingham
- 4 Wellington, J. Cliff

Lilac.

- 1 Queen of Lilacs, E. Schofield
- 2 Annie, J. Cliff
- 3 Queen of Lilacs, D. Naylor
- 4 Queen of Lilacs, J. Hebden

Crimson.

- 1 Bathurst, C. Walker
- 2 Bathurst, J. Hebden

- 3 Bathurst, C. Walker

- 4 Bathurst, J. Cliff

Fancy.

- 1 Attraction, J. Hebden

- 2 Mrs. Hansard, ditto

- 3 Privateer, ditto

- 4 Mrs. Hansard, C. Walker

Scarlet.

- 1 Bob, J. Cliff

- 2 Napier, ditto

- 3 Shylock, E. Schofield

- 4 Napier, I. Cliff

White, or Blush.

- 1 Cornwallis, C. Walker

- 2 Annie Salter, J. Cliff

- 3 Cornwallis, J. Hebden

- 4 Caroline, D. Naylor

Tipped.

- 1 Beauty of the Grove, J. Hebden

- 2 Queen of Beauties, C. Walker

- 3 Beauty of the Grove, S. Schofield

- 4 Radziville, J. Hebden

Bronze.

- 1 Faucher, J. Cliff

- 2 Alice, ditto

- 3 Faucher, ditto

- 4 Ditto, ditto

ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.



BEDS AND BEDDING PLANTS.

As the bedding system has now become one of the leading features of a garden, it naturally is one of the gardener's great duties to provide for the bedding season, the principal point of which lies in the production of a large number of plants suitable for the purpose. The best places that can be formed are pits, either heated with a flue or hot water, but where this is not practicable, the gardener's wits must be put to work to find a substitute, as, although the plants may be struck and potted in the greenhouse, still they cannot be kept growing there till turning-out time, without serious damage, both to themselves and the regular occupants of the said houses. Cold frames are the best for hardening the plants off, as they may be well protected with mats or straw; but where there is not sufficient of these, some temporary frames may be made of a few boards, and some neat lights constructed, thatched with straw. In this way large quantities of plants may be protected from late spring frosts, with but little trouble, while many plants, such as *Calceolarias*, Dwarf *Dahlias*, *Pentstemons*, &c., will do quite as well in them as in the glazed frames.

Pots are articles which most gardeners are short of for raising bedding stuff in. Many things I know cannot be managed without pots, while others may, dwarf *Dahlias*, such as *Zelinda*, for instance, by dividing the roots after they have grown an inch or two, and wrapping each plant with a ball of earth to it in a piece of moss, and then placing it in the frame above alluded to, amongst leaf mould. The roots

strike through the moss, so that when it is planted out it receives no check, as the moss is not taken off, or the roots disturbed; but care must be taken that the plant has time to protrude its roots through the moss, for if the weather prove dry, the moss will be the means of keeping the moisture from the roots, and so prove injurious. Many other plants will also bear this treatment, such as *Ageratums*, *Salvias*, *Fuchsias*, and the like, and, in fact, all quick strong-rooted plants. The best treatment for *Calceolarias* is to pot them off early, and get each plant well established. They should then be turned out of the pot, and planted in the frame, in leaf mould, from which they will lift well, with good balls attached, when required for final planting. The *Geranium* tribe should also be kept in pots, as they are the principal things for use, and the first to make a show; and it is advisable to give them as little check as possible. Amongst the beds I had the pleasure of seeing last year, I was particularly struck with those of the Crystal Palace, at Sydenham. There was not, most certainly, so much variety as one might expect, but this was more than compensated by the good effect they produced. The principal beds were yellow *Calceolaria*, edged with Tom Thumb *Geraniums*. When I saw them they were a blaze of magnificence. Amongst these, were beds of single purple Larkspur, pegged down close, with an edging of Tom Thumb *Geraniums*. They contrasted well with the scarlet and yellow beds. There were also many formed of the purple dwarf *Dahlia*, *Zelinda*, than which we do not possess a better bedding plant. It does not grow more than fifteen or eighteen inches high, and, when thus set close, forms a complete mass of bloom. Still, I must confess, it has one drawback, making no side shoots for successional blooming, and consequently, when put out early, is rather too short-lived. There were many beds of other varieties of *Dahlias* of the show kinds, amongst which I noticed *Duke of Wellington*, *Sir C. Napier*, *Malvina*,

and Essex Triumph. These were all pegged down, and were not more than eighteen inches in height. For vases, at the Crystal Palace, Tom Thumb Geraniums were extensively used; in fact, Tom Thumb appears to be the palace pet. Amongst the beds I saw at Hampton Court, were a Scarlet Geranium, edged with Flower of the Day Geranium. This had a fine effect, as had a Verbena bed, pink, edged with white; but the edged beds require great attention as to the pegging. Another good Verbena bed was Beauty Supreme (pink) in the centre, Emma (a purple) round that, and then an edge of Perfection (white). A bed of Shrubland Rose Petunia, edged with Hamlet Verbena, was very fine, and so was also one of Shrubland Rose Petunia edged with Defiance Verbena. One with a planted Ageratum in the centre, surrounded with Cineraria Amhoides, and edged with Mignonette, was good, but to my taste wanted contrast. Among other beds I may mention Tom Thumb Geranium and Calceolaria Coyera, with an edging of variegated Alyssum, or blue Lobelia, either contrasts well. For a blue and yellow bed, take yellow Calceolaria and blue Lobelia. I am very fond of a bed of planted Flower of the Day Geranium, mixed with lilac Verbena, and a Tom Thumb Geranium border.

Bedding plants are now become so much the fashion as to all but throw our old favourite perennial and herbaceous plants out of the garden, and our long borders where we used to grow them are now taken up with the bed fashion, and planted in what we call the "ribbon" style, that is, in rows. A ribbon I have seen look well is first variegated Alyssum, then Rose Verbena, Tom Thumb Geranium, and Ageratum. Another good ribbon may be made with first Mignonette, then Scarlet Verbena, Heliotrope, and Shrubland Rose Petunia; and a third of blue Lobelia, white Verbena, Dahlia Zelinda, and Ageratum.

W. S.

THE FAULTS IN FLORISTS' FLOWERS.

BY GEORGE GLENNY, F.H.S.

THE greatest difficulty the raiser of these beauties has to encounter is, to find among his hundreds of novelties something better than we possess already, and it applies alike to almost all subjects. The most striking improvement would be well-defined marking, or colour. It would "cover," like charity, "a multitude of sins." We do not know whether the failing is peculiar to ourselves, but we cannot esteem a novelty where there is no distinctness. Look at nineteenthths of the so-called new Tulips; there is no design in the marking; there are a number of scratches, and clouds of breeder colour, dabs here and there, portions of the edge feathered and portions plain, marks running into each other, a few patches perhaps well defined, just enough to make us wish the whole were similar; and yet we must be content till we get better. But perhaps the Tulip was the worst flower we could begin with, because the bloom of the very finest varieties so often plays false. Take the Carnation. How scarce are the sorts which have dense-coloured flakes, broad and well defined, and a pure white ground; and if such qualities are rare with the great majority of old favourites, how gratifying would it be to find them in a seedling? Broad, dense-coloured (no matter what the colour be) stripes, with no narrow scratches, no pouncy dots between them, no pinky blush ground, but pure white, would be a treat to any raiser; and when it occurs in a bizarre, a broad flake of dark, and joined with its own width of lighter colour, well defined, and not clouding or shading into each other, and a fair proportion of snow-white ground, would strike the florist with wonder and admiration. There is not such perfection to be found, however nearly some may approach, compared with others. The Picotee is subject to the same fault as Carnations—the lack of purity in the

ground, the absence of uniformity in the edge, the freedom from bars and pouncy spots. Some are delicate, and portions will have no edge, others are heavy, and full of breaks, but it must be confessed we have many pleasing varieties. Take the Pink; how rarely do we find the lacing perfect; how seldom are the petals, as they approach the centre, anything but ill-defined jumbles of colour and ground—if there be any ground. How often are they altogether run. A Pink with anything like perfect lacing to the centre is a prodigy. We are obliged to pull out many petals to make them showable. So accustomed are we to these blemishes, that we see a new one, whose only claim to notice is that there is a trifling difference by which it may be known from others, possessing all the faults of its predecessors, and yet, if in the hands of a nurseryman, it is certified by other nurserymen as a good thing. There is hardly too much honour to be heaped on a real improvement. It should be recognized and distinguished in a way not to be mistaken; but as the vilest trash, in the hands of some of the dealers round the metropolis, will obtain what they call a first-class certificate, nothing more can be done for a really good flower. The certificate system has levelled all distinctions, until the floral world almost shun the flowers that have them as they would a base man, and properly, too, for it has been the means of defrauding the true florist, the young enthusiast, and the unwary amateur, of thousands of pounds. But to return to our subject. Of all the white or yellow ground Dahlias with coloured edges, few are well defined. More than half of them are shown without colour, or with so little that it spoils a white or a yellow. An edged Dahlia, in general, is as uncertain as a Tulip. The character is rarely maintained in the specimens exhibited, and it is a question whether some rule ought not to be adopted as a penalty for flowers shown “out of their natural character”—a penalty something like disqualifying a stand, and, in class showing, disqualifying

a flower. In the Pansy, among a thousand seedlings raised from seed saved with the greatest care, the prevailing enemy to novelty is the want of decided colouring and well-defined outlines. A blotch on which there is no dependance, a border clouded and shaded, or rather flushed into the ground colour, are not features to recommend to the young grower; but these faults are prevalent; yet it is scarcely wise to throw away such until they have grown through a whole season, because many fine varieties, that come good at one period of the year, are very unpromising in their early blooms; but unless they are well defined, that is, the edge of the colouring perfectly distinct, they are good for nothing. Let us look at the washy kind of edge there is to many *Ranunculuses*, and place one by the side that has a distinct dense colour, and the difference will be manifest to a novice. The one is dead and insipid, as compared with the other, and yet such faulty varieties are tolerated, because they are new. The *Auricula* is just as treacherous. Many of the present cultivated varieties are ill-defined, and what are they compared with those which exhibit a circular eye, a circular colouring, and a circular edge, of green, or grey, or white? Why, a man may flower a hundred seedlings, some like and some unlike the sorts we already possess, but inferior, while the greater number are nearly all edge, or nearly all ground colour, with no distinct outline for either, and among them some that have nothing but a white centre, going off, as it approaches the outside, to a dirty edging, neither green, white, nor grey. In fact, we care not what flower is mentioned, the grand property of distinct marking is most to be desired, and most scarce. In all florists' flowers, contrast is valuable, where there are two or more colours, and no contrast can exist where one colour shades off into another. Some of our favourites have distinct portions, which if nearly alike in colour, are next to worthless. Take the *Fuchsia*, the sepals, which should turn up like the Turk's Cap

Lily, should be one, and the corolla, which is like a petticoat, ought to be another. All those which have the one a light red and the other a darker red, are next to worthless. If the sepals be a pure white, the corolla may be anything from the lightest lilac, rose, blue, purple, crimson, or blood-red, because there is the contrast, if the colour be perfect; but if the sepals happen to be pink, or even blush, the corolla must be anything but shades of red, because that would only be tame and uninteresting. The eye would be offended, the flower would want contrast. A scarlet, with a very dark purple, would be good. We are now leaving out all thought of form, because now that we have form with contrast, we cannot tolerate form without it. We have now pinks and and reds with white corollas, a new and extraordinary move in the Fuchsia, but there are some of even these which exhibit a sameness, because the white (so called) corollas are damaged with a pink base and shade, and have a sickly appearance. But a scarlet sepal and a snow-white corolla is striking, and worthy of all honour. To go now to the Geranium; many of these are destitute of that grand quality, a distinct character; the top petals cloudy, the ground colour veiny, the marking not much darker than the ground. We do not deny that some have very distinct blotches on the upper petals, and spots on the lower ones; but many of those have been distinguished by certificates from people who call themselves judges, without the slightest claim to the honour. How else could one man let out thirty new ones in a season, and twenty or more of them utterly worthless? They bear a coloured description, and that induces many silly persons to buy them; but do they survive a season? No! There is an absence of contrast, there is nothing well defined, the colours are jumbled together anyhow, and it is a notorious fact that the venders and certifying dealers know that they are valueless. But if we once digressed to show up the dealers in worthless novelties, we should

occupy too much space. Lady Paxton, which is now perhaps being distributed, has been condemned by the dealers in cloudy, indefinite, good-for-nothing varieties, simply because it exhibits in its flowers contrast enough to condemn many of their dearly-bought novelties. But it has at least the merit of a step in the right direction. It is a (so called) white ground, has the top petals no better than many others, but the bottom petals have three distinct spots, well defined. It exhibits a contrast, and will please every body when it comes out. Let us now go to the Polyanthus, a flower which, upon its yellow ground, has various colours, from light brown and crimson to a dark, almost black. In proportion to the fine circular outline next the eye, and the manner in which the outline between the edging or lacing round and down the centre of each division of the petal are perfect, is the flower valued. Hundreds of seedlings may be bloomed, and with fine qualities of another kind, but the undefined edge of the ground colour, inwards and outwards, renders them worthless. Many Polyanthuses have been turned out as first-rate, but the ground colour has been merely ill-shaped blotches. Turn to the Cineraria, and observe how few have perfect edgings, but have their colour clouding or shading into the white. Thousands of seedlings have been raised which were good in colour at the extreme edge, but dying off to lighter and lighter shades until they die into the white ground; the grand property, contrast, is destroyed. Perhaps not one in a thousand is exempt from this glaring fault. In fact, it matters not what be the flower, if there be two colours, they are worthless if one runs into the other; though, if the form be good, cultivators will save such flowers to seed from, in the hope of getting better. Contrast is so striking, that it is the first thing that even novices are taken with, and density of colour is as important in self. We can only describe density by referring to paper. A coloured paper, when *made in colour*, is dense, how-

ever pale or light the tint, but paper whose surface is stained is not dense, it is washy and void of richness. Some flowers are the same ; one looks as if the bloom was formed of coloured matter, the other looks as paper does when the colour is transparent and laid on. It is this distinction that strikes us when we describe a flower as papery, and some of the new Dahlias are of this description. Although honoured with numerous certificates, these *managed distinctions* are papery too, but they are waste paper.

THE CULTIVATION OF THE PINK.

I BEG leave to offer, with your permission, a few remarks on the cultivation of this popular flower ; and as I have been a successful cultivator for several years, and it is a flower in which I have taken great delight, I hope they will not be altogether uninteresting to your readers.

For propagation, I adopt piping, as I consider it the safest and most expeditious method. About the middle of June, I commence operations, choosing as the most suitable situation a border under the southern fence of the garden, where the soil is of an open texture ; I work the soil freely with a fork, to the depth of four inches, and on the top I lay a mixture of three parts leaf mould and one of silver sand, and smoothen the surface with the back of a rake. I then take my hand-glass and mark out a circle with the rim. These preparations having been made, I break off the grass or piping from the side of the plant, stripping the foliage from the stem to the third joint, and with a sharp knife cut off close under the bottom joint, taking particular care not to injure the bud. The pipings, thus prepared, are placed in water, to stiffen, that they may be the more easily planted in the ground, and I then take each separately and plant them in the mould, within the

form of the hand-glass, about an inch apart, and having filled up the space, give them a slight watering, taking care not to put down the glass close, until the plants are perfectly dry, as, if wet, they are liable to rot of. In this manner I proceed until I have gone over the whole of my collection, being careful to protect them from the mid-day sun, by placing hoops, covered with light calico, over the bed. These shades should remain over the young plants from eight o'clock in the morning till about five in the evening, and at the end of six or eight weeks the glasses may be entirely removed, and in seven or eight days, the plants may be planted out, about three inches apart, to strengthen.

The bed for this purpose should have a good dressing of rotten manure and river sand. The beginning of September, I make up my bed for blooming. This I prepare as follows:—I take off the soil from the surface of the bed, and place in its stead a layer (about four inches deep) of well rotted manure, over which I replace about six inches of the soil and an inch of sand. This I well work together with a fork, and form into a bed, keeping it four or five inches higher in the centre than at the sides. In this bed I place the young plants, about seven inches apart.

Towards the beginning of April, I give the bed a top-dressing of rotten manure, about an inch thick, and towards the first week in May, I fork this top-dressing into the mould. When the plants begin to spindle, or throw up blooming stems, I reduce the number of buds on the main stem to two, thus ensuring much finer flowers. When the pods begin to open, care must be taken that they do not burst or crack. To prevent this, they should be tied round with waxed cotton. When the guard petals begin to drop, I put cards round them and place the petals in their proper position. This done, I put on the shades, to prevent the sun having too much influence on them. When it is desirable to save the

seed, as soon as the petals have dropped, I remove the cotton, and pull down one side of the pod, so that no wet may lodge, to rot the seed. When ripe, I gather and place it in the sun, to get thoroughly dry. The best time for sowing, I find, is about the middle of March. I take a shallow pan, and fill it with well-sifted mould, and get a small piece of board and press the surface so as to make it solid. I then sow the seed, and cover it lightly with fine mould. Over this I put some moss, and give a gentle watering. The moss prevents it suffering from drought. As soon as the seed vegetates, the moss may be removed, for the plants to strengthen. About the latter end of May, they will be ready to plant out, to bloom the following season.

The best twelve that I know are,

New Criterion
Sarah
John Stevens
Mr. Hobbs
Lord C. Wellesley
Ada

Elizabeth Gair
Prince of Wales (Bragg)
Brunette
Mr. Weedon
Colchester Cardinal
James Hogg

W. C. N.

POT CULTURE OF ANNUALS AND PERENNIALS, FOR BEDS AND BORDERS.

THERE is nothing that, for the time, so disorganizes a flower garden as the decay of the various flowers, and, excepting the addition of a little trouble, nothing so easily and effectually prevented. To begin at the beginning, let us mention the Crocus. From the very day that its blossoms fade the leaves begin to grow long and ugly. If these were grown in pots plunged in the borders, there would be nothing to do but to take up the pots, turn out the balls of earth whole into a trench made on purpose, in some concealed corner of the garden, and to plunge other pots

into their places. If the Crocuses were in the ground, the leaves would get longer and spread, turning sickly and ugly long before we may disturb them, and if they must stop there we must wait until they are long enough to tie, and even then they are ugly, for we need scarcely tell the reader that if we cut down the leaves of a bulb it does not grow. Well, the only question is, what are we to put in the place of the Crocus? Primroses, Polyanthuses, Auriculas, all of which may be ready in pots to fill up the holes which the Crocus pots have left. Sixty pots of Crocuses declining their bloom, and before they are quite untidy, might be removed in an hour, and the above subjects put in their places. By the time these have done blooming, early Tulips may be ready to supply their places. When the Tulips have passed their prime, Hyacinths will be ready, and after these Nemophila, Erysimum, Larkspur. To follow these Stocks, and then Stocks and Asters. Now all these things are proper for the front rank, six inches from the edge. In a second row, and behind the first, we may begin with Wall Flowers, the double gold colour and the blood red, if we have them, if not, we may be content with single, to be followed with Sweetwilliams, Pinks, Verbenas, Scarlet Geraniums, Coreopsis, and such like subjects. In this move the Verbenas and Geraniums may be turned out of their pots with the balls whole, because they continue in bloom the rest of the summer. Behind these we may begin with permanently planted Pæonies, Phloxes, Aconitums, Columbines, Perennial Lupins, and similar tall-blooming plants, with room between them for pots of Sweet Peas. Behind all these we may have our standard Roses, Hollyhocks, and Dahlias, regularly planted. The few things we have mentioned from a hundred that offer, are merely to give our idea of the great advantage of being able to remove a thing when past its prime, and substitute others coming into flower. In parterres, in geometrical flower gardens, and conspicuous beds and

borders near the mansion, this mode of keeping up a garden is very desirable and easy of accomplishment. Let us presume that there are from ten to twenty annuals at the most that are really worth cultivating in a choice garden, and treat them accordingly. First we have to provide a sufficient number of six-inch pots, those which are narrow at the bottom to be preferred, because they lift out of the earth and replace each other without disturbing the ground. China Asters, Stocks, French Marigolds, Zinnias, Phlox Drummondii, and other subjects that are best planted out, may be sown on a warm border or under glass, to be used when large enough to handle well; but Larkspurs, Lupins, Collinsias, Coreopsis, Sweet Peas, Nemophila, Mignonette, Convolvulus Minor, and such like, should be sown in the pots, very few seeds in a pot, and lightly covered. We are now supposing that all must be grown in the open air, a dozen pots of a sort, or more or less according to the size of the garden to be supplied. Let all these pots be arranged in rows, say six pots in width, and any length that may be wanted, but if one length will not be enough, make another in the same way, two feet off, so that you may walk between them to reach them well. Let them have water in dry weather, for after the seeds are sown they must not be allowed to dry. When the seeds have germinated, and the plants are grown large enough to handle, pull out all but half-a-dozen to a dozen plants, and immediately water the rest, because the earth will have been disturbed. When these have grown more and crowd each other, reduce them all to their proper quantities for permanent growth. Being in pots, they must never be stinted of water, for it is very different to being in the ground, where their roots will go down after it. Small things may remain half-a-dozen in the pot, larger subjects ought not to be more than three. These with care will all grow strong and healthy, and you will use them to fill up the places vacated by others that decay, taking care that those the soonest

in bloom shall be always used, and that the shortest subjects shall be nearest the edge or path. In the meantime those sown to be transplanted will have come up, and grown large enough to remove. These must be potted in the same sized pots, Asters, Stocks, Phlox Drummondii, Marigolds, three in a pot, close to the edge and at equal distances from each other; Zinnias single plants. Place the pots in rows, six pots wide, and any length. Be very careful to keep them moist, and as regards all the pots, let not a weed be seen. From these sources the borders can always be supplied with new subjects as old ones want removing, and there can be no mistake, because as they advance towards bloom you have simply to remove worn-out things and fill up their places with them. So far as perennials are concerned, you only grow one in a pot, and keep up a fair stock. By these means a garden can be kept in excellent order, with abundance of bloom, and the removal of a worn-out plant and filling its place with one in good order is only the work of a minute. If there be some extra labour attached to it, the appearance of the garden well repays us, and people who do not know how it is done will marvel at the constant freshness of the beds and borders.

W. T. A.

OBSERVATIONS ON THE CULTURE OF CARNATIONS AND PICOTEES.

BY JAMES TAYLOR, NOTTINGHAM.

IN making a few remarks on the culture of Carnations and Picotees, I do not expect to be of much use to the old practitioner, but address myself to the inexperienced florist. The first thing to be attended to is to obtain some good rich compost, for it is not only the food of the plant for six or seven months, but the final health and vigour of the stock, and the

size and quality of the blooms, in a great measure depend upon it; and you might just as well expect a stout, robust, and healthy family from eating sour and unwholesome food, as expect fine vigorous plants and large bright blooms from improper soil. The compost I think best is of five ingredients, although it must be remembered that plants, like animals, require a change of food at times. I take equal quantities of cow dung and turf. The cow dung should be two or three years old, and the turf completely rotted down. To every three or four barrowsful of this add about a peck of river sand, and a larger portion if the loam be stiff. These should be put together about October. In November or December take a quantity of quick lime, and mix it in as you turn over the heap. This sweetens and lightens the soil, and destroys grubs and worms. To this add some wood ashes, which can be economically made by burning the cuttings of Gooseberries, Currants, &c. The heap should be turned over every three or four weeks, and oftener in frosty weather, so as to get the whole frozen through and well incorporated. If possible, get your soil tolerably dry by the latter end of February or the beginning of March, and to keep it so, put it under cover, as it is injurious to put the plants into wet stuff.

If your pots are old, and have contracted any filth or greenness, plunge them in lime water, and wash them well inside and out; dry them before using. Provide yourself with plenty of potsherds, large and small. Place a few large ones over the hole at the bottom of the pot, and small ones on the top of them, to the depth of two or three inches. On this place a small portion of turf or horse dung, in a half decomposed state. This prevents the fine soil from stopping up the drainage. Then rub the soil as fine as you can through your hands, putting the coarser part in first, and filling up with fine. Shake it well down, to settle it, but do not press it down or make it sad. Turn your layers carefully out of the pots,

with all the earth to them, and then plant in the same depth they were before. If it be some particular sort, and you have reason to think that the stem is not very sound, remove all the soil just round the neck of the plant, and put some fine river sand (not rock sand) in its place. After you have fixed the plants, cover the surface all over with river sand. This is a better plan than placing oyster shells on the top, as it prevents evaporation to some extent, and allows the free action of the rain, sun, and air. I am an advocate for early potting, where the plants can be protected for a few weeks, but where this cannot be done, the best time is the last week in March or the first in April. I wish here to notice two seedlings raised in the midlands, that pleased me much last year. One was an F.S., raised by Mr. G. Frearson, of Ison Green, near Nottingham. The other was an L.P.P., raised by Mr. R. Lineker, of Nottingham. If this last improves by culture and disbudding, as it is fair to suppose it will, I think it will be second to none.

ON THE PROPERTIES OF THE PINK,

NORTH AND SOUTH.

THERE has been a good deal of nonsense written upon this subject, and here and there a writer, whose "wish was father to the thought," has erected windmills that he may knock them down again. It has been assumed that the properties valued in the south are not the same as those in favour among the northerns, but it is not so. It is in carrying out the judgement upon the properties that the north and south differ. The northerns accuse the southernns of preferring mops, and if we look at the judges' decisions at shows the northerns are right; but there is nothing in "the properties of the Pink," as published by the southernns, that justifies the passing of

mops. The National Society has given certificates of the first class for mops, which, beyond the first two rows, have not had a perfect petal, but a complete jumble of ill-shaped, badly marked florets. If the northerns had such a flower, they would pull out all the florets, and show the two rows of perfect petals only, upon the principle that such things are absolute blemishes; but I have seen nothing to induce me to believe that they prefer two rows of petals to three, or three rows to four, if they could get them perfect. There is a difference amongst florists about the advantage of a white band outside the lacing. Nor can anybody be perfectly reconciled to the necessity of the white edge, until he places side by side the flowers with a white edge and the flowers without it. It is only this band that separates the Pink from the Picotee, for the flowers will assuredly run into one another by and by. That is, we shall have Pinks with Picotee edges and without the eye. I should like this matter to be discussed calmly, because there is room for various opinions. Though the south wants the 'Pink to be half a ball, the petals must be all perfect, and the north has no law against it, only it must be composed of perfect petals.

DIANTHUS.



THE COCKSCOMB,

LIKE other annuals, to be grown in perfection, requires very close attention, both in watering and in frequently shifting into larger pots. Make the first sowing about the first of April, and for succession towards the middle of May. The soil should be a mixture of leaf mould and sand, in about equal parts. The seed may be covered about half an inch deep with this soil finely sifted. Make it smooth, press it gently down, and then water. Place in a cucumber frame, and when the seed leaf is of about

the size of a sixpence, pot them off, placing two plants in each pot, on opposite sides, and using small sixties. Cover the whole stem up to the seed leaf, and give a general watering with a fine-rosed pot. Place them again in a cucumber or melon frame, and when the roots have partially surrounded the ball of earth, they must be again shifted into single four-inch pots, still using the same soil. Place again in the frame, and treat as before, keeping the soil at all times moist. Shift them thus at various intervals, as the roots appear to require it, and keep them in the frame as long as possible. If treated in this way they will require pots ten or twelve inches in diameter, and if the Cockscombs are of a good sort will make fine heads from ten to twelve inches the longest way. I have found recent horse-droppings, when well mixed with the soil for three or four weeks before using, to make a very excellent compost, and with this I have grown larger combs than with any other. When the plants have attained their full growth, or nearly so, they should be removed to the greenhouse, where, placed among other plants, they present a peculiar and interesting appearance.

R. E.

OSIERS AS A SUPPORT FOR PETUNIAS AND OTHER FLOWERS.

THE various species and varieties of Petunias are, after all, the most beautiful of our summer flowers; and when grown with care, in a moderately sheltered and rich border, and trained in a manner I shall describe below, for beauty of colour and profusion of blossoms they are almost unsurpassable. The plan that I adopt may be said to present nothing new, except in the mode of laying and training, for which last I recommend osiers or willows as a good substitute for wire in the formation of trellises. For a bed five or six feet across, get willows from three-eighths

to five-eighths of an inch in diameter, as nearly equal in size as possible, so that they may bend with the same pressure. For a round bed of the diameter alluded to, three willows may be used. Press both ends of each willow securely into the ground, at opposite sides of the bed. The willows will of course cross each other in the centre, and must be placed at equal distances round the bed, about nine inches or a foot from the edge. Then get some small green string, and carry it from willow to willow, commencing at nine inches from the ground, twisting it once round each, till you have gone quite round. Then commencing nine inches higher, continue this process till it reach the centre, where the willows cross each other, the strings being nine inches apart, and the whole forming a flattened cone. Then train the *Petunias* on this, securing the larger branches, and only permitting the shorter and lateral shoots to ascend, as on these the flowers are principally produced. In this way I have succeeded in training *Petunias* and some other trailing plants, so as to be not only secure from the wind, but also to present a form as agreeable to the eye as it is evidently suited to the habits and nature of the plant. I have only named one particular form of bed, but this will give a hint which may be made to apply to all other shapes. The form and size of the bed will suggest to the operator the best mode of laying and trellising. Willows are plentiful in the midlands, the cost, therefore, will be but trifling, and for most trailers their use will be found, on this plan, preferable to the old method of pegging.

A LOVER OF FLOWERS.

GERANIUMS AS FLORISTS' FLOWERS.

THESE beautiful subjects are now exhibited after a fashion which destroys their claim to floral honours, and extinguishes the properties by which they are

judged as seedlings. Take any one of the specimens which are loaded with blooms they cannot support, and propped with sticks, and you will easily see that there is hardly one perfect truss; some have six petals instead of five, some scarcely two blooms alike, very few with perfect markings, and perhaps not a single truss that possesses the brilliance, the form, or the size that in the first single plant induced the judges to select it for cultivation. How can it be otherwise? The plant has been unnaturally excited into growth, to be checked and grown again, and, by constant stopping and exciting, driven out into innumerable shoots, until they are too weak to sustain even the miserable starvling blooms that have to make up in number for the loss of all claim to properties, and from a noble florists' flower it has degenerated to a large surface of distorted blooms. Well, for the mere loungers at floral fetes all this may do, they admire the masses of pimping blossoms, and they do not condescend to look sideways at the hundreds of props, or they might also admire the ingenuity which is made to compensate for professional ignorance. The most flowers and sticks wins the approbation of the judges; strength and beauty, and symmetry, go for nothing. The natural habit of the plant must be destroyed before the grower can take a prize, and the old laws of the true florist, which allow of no artificial support, are abandoned, to make excuses for the gardener's incapacity. That there is a disposition to carry the system out, wherever the new and namby-pamby school takes the lead, is too evident. The showing of Pinks, Picotees, and Carnations on cards is another of the expedients to conceal the cultivator's blundering, and make room for those flowers that will not support themselves. The exhibition of Roses with a bundle of laths to fasten the weakly branches in the position that suits the division of the flowers, some bent down almost to the pot, and curled about in all directions, is simply because the gardener is ignorant of his profession,

and cannot prune his plants right, nor grow them strong. Fuchsias are subject to the same cruel torture, although, if well grown, they are able to sustain themselves in the most graceful and elegant position. To return, however, to our subject. Why should there not be a Geranium Society, to encourage the natural growth of that most beautiful flower? The cultivation of this plant in a natural way is very simple, but it requires taste in the grower, and attention to the wants of the plant. The main object is to produce its flowers perfect, and to do this there must not be too many. The florist might as well let the Auricula and the Polyanthus spread in the pot and throw up a dozen trusses, and expect perfect flowers, as the Geranium grower make monster plants with hundreds of false blooms. Let prizes be given for the best flowers; it will then be found that cuttings struck in July, grown healthily without fire heat, and only stopped once or twice, will produce flowers in their true character. Nay, it is not quite certain whether a single truss on a plant not stopped at all, placed beside one of the monsters, would not completely throw the flower grower on the mass of scaffolding into the shade. To see a Geranium possessed of good properties degraded to a jumble of imperfect blossoms is vexing to the true florist, and some effort should be made by the provincial horticultural societies to bring back the plant to its natural state, and its blooms to their natural beauty. Place one of the distorted monsters fairly on its bottom, and look at the wretched figure it would make with its hundred wooden legs. Observe that not a vestige of the natural plant is left, and yet they call it plant growing. Why the best appellation for it would be gardening run mad. Here the finical ladies and gentlemen who like artificial flowers can easily admire the jumble of petals that cover the whole surface of a plant. But show us a well grown symmetrical plant, with its branches and foliage in their proper places, with health and strength and a

proper share of flowers, and there is something to be delighted with. Above all things avoid crowding—avoid unnatural excitement—avoid artificial heat, except to keep out frost—abjure sticks and ties, and let us have the full development of the real properties in whatever blooms are shown. If we could influence the employers of gardeners, they should not permit a single support to plants that can be grown without it, for it is certain that the time wasted by a gardener in propping, and torturing, and tying, is fatal to his proper business.

FLORA.

BEST DAHLIAS GROWN IN THE MIDLANDS, IN 1855.

THE following twenty-four Dahlias were the most successful in the midland counties, last season, and any new beginner may confidently purchase them. I have grown all the varieties, and they possess the double advantage of being good and worthy a place in the finest collection, and so moderate in price as to enable the more humble grower to possess the whole or greater part of them.

Annie Rawlings (Rawlings).—Lilac, fine form, and constant.

Ada (Edwards).—Yellow, the most constant, and best form out.

Agincourt (Fellowes).—Rose purple, very fine and constant.

Comte de Chambord (Lecocq).—Slate lilac, rather uncertain, but when in its best state, a striking flower in a pan.

Duke of Wellington (Drummond).—Orange scarlet, constant.

Empress (Procter).—White, delicately shaded with peach.

Beauty of Slough (Bragg).—White, edged with crimson, fine.

Bishop of Hereford (Union).—Marone, large, but rather flat centre, very constant.

Fanny Keynes (Keynes).—Buff, edged with crimson purple, large, and fine form, requires early planting.

General Faucher (Rose).—Rose buff, constant.

Amazon (Holmes).—White, edged with purple.

John Keynes (Dodds).—Salmon pink, large, fine form.

Lord Bath (Wheeler).—Dark marone, constant, and fine form.

Rachel Rawlings (Rawlings).—Peach, large, and extra form.

- Pre-eminent* (Fellowes).—Rich plum or purple, the best of last season, extra fine.
- Miss Caroline* (Brittle).—Blush, occasionally tipped with purple.
- Sir R. Peel* (Drummond).—Scarlet, rather uncertain, fine form.
- Sir F. Bathurst* (Keynes).—Crimson, fine form.
- Robert Bruce* (Drummond).—Orange scarlet.
- Sir C. Napier*.—Dark scarlet, fine form.
- Ringleader* (G. Holmes).—Bright ruby, one of the best petalled flowers grown, rather low in the centre.
- Golden Eagle* (W. Holmes).—Beautiful orange, fine form, and constant.
- King of Yellows* (Collier).—Light yellow, large.
- Mr. Seldon* (Turner).—Purple.

TWELVE OF THE FINEST FANCY VARIETIES.

- Abbe Bouquillon* (Renyng).—Scarlet, tipped with white.
- Belle of the Village* (Morley).—Marone, tipped with white, extra fine.
- Imperatrice Eugenie* (Miquet).—Pure white, edged with purple.
- Comet* (Keynes).—Purple, striped, the best in its class.
- Miss Frampton* (Rawlings).—Blood colour, tipped with white.
- Baron Alderson* (Perry).—Scarlet, tipped with white, very fine form.
- Surprise* (Oakley).—Dark crimson, tipped with white.
- Lady Franklin* (Edwards).—Light purple and white, very constant.
- Mrs. Hansard* (Edwards).—Yellow, tipped with white.
- Reine des Fleurs* (Scalabre).—Rose purple, tipped with white.
- Topsy* (Keynes).—Purple, mottled and striped with white.
- Triomphe de Roubaix* (Busine).—Yellowish buff, tipped with white.

R. E.

THE COTTAGER'S PAGE.

How shall I manage my window plants, is a question often asked. I would answer, by giving them regular attention. Many will tell you the aspect of their windows is bad, the soil is not suitable, and so on, while others, with the worst of plant accommodation, will manage to make them always look well. With regard to soil, let me tell the cottager it is not of so much consequence as he often seems to think. Any tolerably good garden soil will grow

most plants that are suitable for his purpose, while a very rich soil is decidedly objectionable, as it would cause the plants to run too much to leaf. Attention to the following rules will, I think, ensure success with window plants.

1st. Never grow plants that are difficult to manage, there are plenty of others suitable for windows.

2nd. In potting, put plenty of drainage in the bottom of the pot, with a small piece of moss between the crocks and the soil, to prevent the drainage from being choked up.

3rd. Never use saucers for the purpose of keeping water at the roots, as it makes the plants look yellow, and at last kills them outright.

4th. Never water unless the soil is beginning to get dry, and when you do, soak the soil thoroughly. On the other hand, never allow your plants to flag for want of water.

5th. Examine the plants daily—not weekly—and turn them round in the window, so as to keep them bushy and from drawing all on one side.

6th. As soon as greenfly makes its appearance, use tobacco smoke plentifully, for the more it is allowed to increase the more difficult it is to get under.

W. S.

THE CHINESE PRIMROSE.

(*PRIMULA SINENSIS*.)

ABOUT the first, or before the middle of April, sow the seed in a mixture of loam, peat, and white sand. Before filling with the compost, the seed pans must be carefully drained by filling the bottoms with broken crocks. Then make the soil firm and smooth to receive the seeds, which should be sown regularly over the surface, and very slightly covered by nicely sifted loam and sand. Plunge the pan up to the rim, when it will seldom require watering. If a bell-glass

be at hand to place over it, so much the better, but it is necessary that it be removed as soon as the seeds begin to germinate. The application of a glass shade is, however, of little consequence if the seed pans are kept in a warm and shaded situation. My plan for shading small seeds is this. I take a common sized label, and split it down into three or four pieces, according to the size. I then stick these in the soil around the edges of the pans, and one or two in the middle, allowing them to remain three or four inches above the surface. A sheet of paper or any other light shade can then without loss of time be thrown over the seed pan. When the largest leaves have attained the size of a sixpence, they must be potted singly into small pots, with the same kind of soil, with the addition of leaf mould. Keep them for about ten days or a fortnight in a close shaded and warm temperature, from which they may be removed to the protection of a cold frame. Towards the end of August place them in larger pots, using the same compost as before, and always taking care to put at least an inch of drainage at the bottom of each pot, which for this shift must not be more than four inches across. They must still remain under glass, for if exposed to heavy rain they will do but little good. About the latter end of September, or October, commence shifting into fresh pots according to growth. Put them in an airy place in the greenhouse, if on shelves near the glass they will be the better suited, and if they show blooms before Christmas nip them off. The *Primula* is nearly hardy, and may be kept alive with little care; but to grow it in perfection it must not be exposed to the open air and heavy rains during the summer.

DOUBLE VARIETIES.—From these take cuttings and place in a brisk bottom heat. They will soon take root, and the sooner in May they are struck the better. Treat as described for the single *Primula*.

R. W.

A FEW WORDS ON THE FUCHSIA.

MR. EDITOR, having been requested by many friends to give my mode of growing this noble plant, I will gladly comply, as far as I can, and likewise give a list of the best twenty that have come under my notice, as a guide for any new beginner. The florists of Nottingham and its vicinity are famed for growing Tulips, Roses, Dahlias, and most other florists' flowers. I should like also to see them as famed for the cultivation of the Fuchsia. There are very few dwellings in this neighbourhood where this favourite is not to be found an inhabitant, for it is of easy growth, and can be trained almost to suit any situation, and its blooming season is of long duration. This season, they will become the flower of the day. I exhibited a plant (Queen Victoria) at the last Dahlia show, in Nottingham, which attracted the attention of all present. There will be no disappointment in this variety of the Fuchsia, as it is acknowledged by all to be a great acquisition. I have two methods of growing these plants. The first is to take cuttings, about the beginning of August, and place them in a little heat. They soon root, and will make nice plants by autumn. Keep them in the warmest part of the greenhouse during the winter. About the last week in February, give them a little more heat, to cause them to break or branch from the top of the pot. These shoots, if well managed, will make good specimens by the end of May, if they are not so before the time of blooming, as they grow but little after, the principal point is to grow them well at the time they do not flower. Young plants struck in spring seldom make good specimens. They have not strength sufficient to cause them to form side shoots, without great heat, and I have never seen *good* Fuchsias grown in strong heat, as they make too much foliage, and get long-jointed, and have not sufficient bloom. In autumn, when they have finished blooming, let them become

quite dry, and then cut them down to the top of the soil, and place them on one side, in any convenient place, to rest till February. Then give them a little water and heat, and they will soon begin to grow, and will make more young shoots than will be required, having plenty of support at the root. These will form fine plants before the time of blooming. One great point in growing the Fuchsia is in potting, as on this depends in a great measure the health of the plants. My advice is never to repot, for they never seem to flourish till the roots reach the pot sides. My way, in potting young plants, is to use from half-pints to pints and quarts, in proportion to their growth. I find the best compost to be one part rotten turfy loam, one part rotten cow dung, one leaf mould, and a portion of silver sand. In potting, give plenty of drainage, and press the soil firm, or the plants will be too liable to sudden changes, as the compost is very porous.

The following list of Fuchsias contains both variety, novelty, and quality.

TEN WHITE.

Queen of Hanover
Duchess of Lancaster
Charmer (Banks)
Clio (Banks)
Duchess of Sutherland
Lady Franklin
Miss Stanley
Queen of May
Diadem of Flora
Honey-bell

TEN DARK.

Autocrat (Banks)
Magnifica
Elegans (Banks)
Queen Victoria (Story)
Telegraph (Smith)
Vanguard (Banks)
Grand Sultan
Nil desperandum
Prince Albert
Clapham Hero

And now, Mr. Editor, I hope you will excuse me running from the subject, but I cannot let the opportunity pass without making a remark respecting the formation of an amateur society, as proposed in your March number. I hope some of our able amateurs will take up the proposition, and I can only say, I shall be happy to give my mite towards the support of such a society. It would be a great saving both to the amateur and to the small dealer,

as they would then have confidence in what they might be about to purchase. I well remember, at the last Dahlia show held in Nottingham, there was a prize given for the new Dahlias in 1855, and in this class, with but few exceptions, the flowers were not worth more than sixpence. No doubt they had cost the exhibitors the price of good ones.

ROBERT J. BEARD.

Nottingham.

AN ENEMY AMONG THE ROSES.

NOTTINGHAM ARTIZANS' FLOEAL AND HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY.

At a meeting of the members of this society, on the 16th of February, Mr. Williams in the chair, one of the members (Mr. Garrick) imparted the following, which had come under his observation, and which he thought might be of some service to Rose growers.

He said, in going over the rose trees for the spring pruning, he was in the habit of cutting off the "snags" left of the last year's trimming close to the base of the bearing shoot, as well as shortening the young wood itself, merely to remove the unsightly appearance; and in doing so this spring, he had noticed an aperture in the pith, and following it down with the knife, he had found a small black caterpillar. Such were the facts, and he wished to know if any other member had found the caterpillar in his trees. Not any of those present had noticed it. Probably they had not been so particular in removing the unsightly "snags." However, it led to a discussion, but nothing being elicited, Mr. Garrick was requested to bring some of the cuttings, for the members' inspection, on the following meeting night.

On the 23rd, the inquiry into the injury done by the small caterpillar found by Mr. Garrick in the

rose tree was resumed, cuttings being furnished by that gentleman. They were off a Kean, budded on a four-inch stock, and all of them, twelve in number, were found to have been bored by the caterpillar to a depth below the base of the bearing wood, the insect being ensconced at the bottom. It was now found that the same thing had been noticed at various times by another member, but not with that attention which it now appeared to demand. As nothing definite was arrived at by the members present, one of them was deputed to inquire the name and natural history of the insect; and in the meantime the growers were requested to inspect their stock, and report to the society.

On the 1st of March, the subject was resumed, a letter, of which the following is a copy, having been received from J. O. Westwood, Esq., of the *Gardeners' Chronicle*.

SIR,—Your rose “snags” have been bored into by a very minute black caterpillar of some little moth (Tortrise Sp.), which has spun for itself a little white silken bag, within which it has slept through the winter, and from which it will shortly make its escape and burrow into the buds. So you must cut off and burn all the ends which show the little aperture of the burrow. If you will send me a score or two, I will try to rear the moths, and let you know the result.

I am,

Hammersmith, Feb. 27.

J. O. WESTWOOD.

It will be seen from the foregoing that, first, the insect has made its way into the pith sometime before winter, and that it is its home for the winter only; and, secondly, it will come forth very soon to prey upon the buds of the Rose.

It now remains for the society to solicit all Rose growers and gardeners to forward any information they may have at present, and also to be on the alert, as “it (the caterpillar) will shortly make its escape, and burrow into the buds.”

There were several *preventives* and *remedies* suggested by members, which it may be as well to name. Mr. Williams proposed to have a boy to follow the

knife with a composition, and touch the end of the cut with the brush,—the composition to be a modification of the common grafting wax. Another suggestion, by Mr. Garrick, was to cut over again the old “snags,” and fill up the aperture with a similar composition. Both these plans are applicable to the present time, and both founded on the same principle—the one bolting out the enemy, the other blockading him.

Information forwarded to Mr. Williams, at the Crown Inn, Market-place, Nottingham, with any specimens, will be received with thanks, and noticed through the *Midland Florist*.

W. ROWLAND.

Thurgarton.

CULTIVATION OF THE PANSY.

IN reply to the inquiry of your correspondent, as to the best mode of cultivating the pansy, I beg to state that the following is what I have practised for years, with success, always ensuring a good bloom. About the last week in March, or the first in April, I begin to form the bed, which is composed of one-fourth loam, one-fourth garden soil, one-fourth rotten manure, one-eighth river sand, and one-eighth burnt turf, taking care to fork the whole well together. I make the bed four feet wide, and three inches higher in the middle than the sides, that the wet may drain off, and put the plants in rows, a foot asunder each way. After planting, I place hoops across the bed, over which I throw garden mats or calico, to shade the plants from the sun, until they have got well established. About the first week in May, I fork the bed over, and give a top-dressing of well rotted manure. This keeps the roots moist, and prevents the sun having too much influence on those which are near the surface. During the blooming season, the flowers are much improved by a few waterings

with diluted liquid manure. Plants struck in June make nice specimens for blooming in the autumn, following the directions given for the first bloom.

E. G. C.

Derby.

THE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

THE report of the committee of investigation is now before the public. It appears from that document, that the Duke of Devonshire will not consent to have the gardens reduced. If the society give up any part, it must give up the whole. The committee follow up the repeated condemnation of the discreditable feature which injured the trade and wasted the money of the society, and say, "while they quite approve of a liberal distribution of grafts and cuttings, and seeds and plants *introduced by the society*, they do not approve of an unprofitable waste of time, and labour, and house room, and expense, in the wholesale propagation of common things;" and they call for a change. The committee recommend one head for the garden, instead of the present three,—Dr. Lindley, Gordon, and Thompson. They nevertheless recommend Messrs. Gordon and Thompson to the consideration of the fellows, suggesting that good places be found for them. The committee recommend two shows a-year at the gardens, and one a month at the rooms,—the subscriptions to be four guineas and two guineas,—the one to have a transferable ivory ticket for all the shows, the other to have only the present privileges. The shows to be under the management of the garden director, the garden committee merely to see that the society is not compromised. Some of the proposed changes are very judicious, but it is impossible the society can go on without still greater alterations. Dr. Lindley has offered to forego his salary (five hundred

pounds) for one year, without withdrawing any of his services, but this will be useless, unless the unnecessary garden frivolities be given up, the drones got rid of, the rules and by-laws reduced to common sense, all extravagance laid aside, and the fruit of the orchard, which the committee say contains sixteen hundred varieties, be turned to the best account. Some of the fellows, who avail themselves of all their privileges to the full extent, "make a good thing of it." We need hardly say that the report was not adopted, because it was not better than that of the council, but was referred to the council, for consideration and further report.

F.H.S.

ON THE CULTIVATION OF THE CAMELLIA.

AGREEABLE to the request of several friends, I give the following directions for the cultivation of the Camellia, being the method I have practised for years. To begin with the soil, that which I have found best suited to the growth of this plant is composed of about equal parts of loam and peat, and nearly one part of silver sand. The peat and loam should be perfectly broken and mixed together eight or ten months before it is used, and during this time, it ought, in dry weather, to be frequently turned. Several weeks before the compost is required for use, it should be removed into a dry shed, or any other place where it can be protected from rain and kept sufficiently dry to readily fall to pieces when pressed into the pot by the hand.

The proper time for shifting is just before the young shoots begin to swell for spring growth. The young plants which it is desirable to grow rapidly will require to be repotted annually; those five or six feet high will grow and flower freely, if shifted into fresh soil once in two or three years. Before

shifting, the soil should be allowed to become rather dry in the pots. The balls are then turned out, and the roots examined. If the earth do not appear to have been soured by over watering, and the roots are regularly spread over the ball, but not greatly matted, the plants may be considered to be in a favourable condition to be shifted into larger pots. In doing this, nothing more is required, and nothing more ought to be done, than slightly loosening the roots from the ball, and removing all the crocks which may adhere to the bottom. This done, and the new pots carefully crocked, in the proportion of a full inch and a half to a nine-inch size, and a piece of moss or turf laid over them, to prevent the compost mixing with the crocks, sufficient compost should be placed on the moss, and raised into a slightly conical form, to fill up the vacancy occasioned by the removal of the crocks from the ball. Plants of the size alluded to, when in a healthy condition, may be, with advantage, placed in such sized pots as will admit of about an inch of fresh soil round the whole ball. This should be put round with great care, and pressed with the end of a small blunt stick, until it is made quite firm up to the level of the top of the ball, within about an inch of the rim of the pot. If the soil be dry, and that ought to be the case, it cannot, with ordinary pressure, be made too compact for the roots; indeed, experience teaches me that, in the cultivation of this plant, no skill or care can compensate, or continue the plant in health, if the earth is put loosely round the ball. I believe that in nine cases out of ten, the mismanagement and want of success with the *Camellia* may be traced to this source, from which spring all the evils that render this beautiful plant so difficult to cultivate. If the soil be loose and porous, the roots are subject to numerous and sudden transitions from wet to dry. It would defy the greatest care to prevent them suffering from these evils, and in such a case, most frequently the soil becomes sour and unwholesome,

by retaining too great a quantity of water, and thereby not only prevents the increase of new roots, but speedily destroys those which already exist.

R. E.

MR. HEADLY AND HIS TULIPS, OR WILL TOO MUCH WET DESTROY THE BULBS?—About fifteen years ago, the late Mr. Alfred Hillier, amateur florist, Oxford, had an excellent bed of Tulips partly destroyed by too much wet, caused by a continuance of flood during the greater part of the winter, while the bulbs were in the ground. The situation of the garden was low.—OXON.

CALENDAR OF OPERATIONS,

FOR APRIL.

HOT-BEDS for Cucumbers and Melons may still be made for successional crops. Observe the directions given in the January and February numbers. Carefully examine the beds, to see if they are of proper heat, as fine fruit and good crops cannot be ensured unless the plants are kept in a proper temperature. Give air by opening the top of the lights more or less, according to the temperature of the bed, raising them one, two, or three inches, on mild sunny days, but keep close if cold. Cover the lights with mats at night, and uncover as soon as the sun shines on the glass in the morning. Water moderately every four or five days, but be particularly careful not to give too much. Remove all decayed leaves and flowers.

In the vinery, proceed with thinning the berries, wherever the crop is sufficiently advanced to allow of it. Attend to stopping and training, and keep a moderate night heat, about sixty degrees. Give air on fine days, but avoid cold currents. Look for red spider, and to the late Vines, which will now be about breaking.

GREENHOUSE.

Most of the plants will now be shooting freely, therefore they must not be kept too close. Open the windows more or

less every morning, about two hours after sunrise, when the air is mild and calm, and let them continue open till within an hour of sunset. Water must now be duly given to the plants as they need it. Look well after greenfly, which will infest every thing, at this season, unless constantly checked by fumigation. Pelargoniums required to bloom in July must be stopped the first week in this month. Keep the house closed for a few days, which will help them to push forth their eyes, and when the eyes are prominent, give air at all opportunities, carefully avoiding easterly winds. Syringe over head twice or three times a-week, after shutting up, with plenty of sunlight and warmth. Many of the early-blooming plants will be fast showing their trusses. In watering, give sufficient to moisten the whole ball. When Liliiums begin to force through the soil, take the whole up and carefully repot at least an inch below the surface, placing one bulb in a small pot, and two or three in those of larger size. Guard against frost, but give as much air as possible. Water once or twice with lime water, to destroy worms. Attend to watering and repotting cuttings. Where the Salvias, Petunias, Calceolarias, and all kinds of bedding plants are getting rather tall and weak, stop the shoots, which will cause them to break again and strengthen them. The strong bedding plants may be turned into any convenient place where they can be protected from frost or easterly winds, to harden off. Roses in pots will need thorough attention as to cleanliness and tying. The most forward will be fast coming into bloom. Syringing and good supplies of liquid manure will be found useful.

FLOWER GARDEN.

Hyacinths, Tulips, Ranunculuses, and Anemones will now be coming into bloom. Protect the better varieties from heavy rains, cutting winds, and sharp frosts, by a covering of canvass. Where the Hyacinths have thrown up heavy spikes, they should be carefully supported by a stick, to which they should be neatly tied. Carnations should be planted out in the borders, where they are intended to flower, early this month. Polyanthuses may still be planted out, plants propagated from rooted cuttings, and seed sown. Sow in warm borders Mignonette, German and Ten-week Stocks, for planting out in May and June, covering them lightly with earth. Hardy annuals may still be sown in the beds and borders. (See page 86, 87, 88.) The pruning of all kinds of Roses should be finished early this month. Finish planting hardy herbaceous plants, without delay. Half hardy annuals may be sown in the border, and attention must be paid to keeping off snails, by scattering a little lime or soot. Sow Hollyhock seed in drills, and plant out in shrubberies and borders those sown last year, in rich soil. Sow perennials, for good blooming plants next year.

KITCHEN GARDEN.

Plant late Potatoes for general crop, without delay. Sow Cauliflower Broccoli, such sorts as Walcheren, Mammoth, Chapple's Cream, and Elletson's Emperor, a fine new late dwarf white. Sow a full crop of Carrots,—Altringham Improved and James's Green-top. Cauliflower plants sown last month should be pricked out. Plant out those preserved through the winter in the open air. Continue to make new Asparagus beds, and sow seed. Sow Brussels Sprouts, Savoya. Dwarf French Beans, and Scarlet Runners. Sow Peas for succession,—Hair's Dwarf Marrow, Knight's Dwarf Green Marrow, Ne plus ultra, Champion of England, and Fairbeard's Nonpareil. Sow Beans: the most preferable sorts for succession are, Green Windsor, Johnson's Wonderful, Longpod, and Improved Windsor. Transplant Celery in frames, or warm borders, in rich soil. Sow Lettuce, Radishes, Mustard, Cress, Beet, Turnips, sweet herbs, Parsley. Sow Vegetable Marrows in a little heat, and when up, pot them singly, and harden off for planting out in the open ground. Cucumbers for ridges should be got forward, and hardened, to plant out in May. Harden off Tomatoes, and plant against south walls.

GREAT HARWOOD TULIP SHOW.

At Edward Hodgson's, Lomax Arms Inn, June 16, 1855.

Premier Prize.—Charles X., T. Gibson.

Feathered Bizarres.

- Charles X. (kettle), R. Birtwistle.
 1 Charles X., T. Gibson
 2 Truth, E. Hodgson
 3 Polyphemus, T. Gibson
 4 Old Dutch Catafalque, E. Hodgson
 5 Surpass Catafalque, ditto
 6 Waterloo, A. Bentley
 7 Northern Hero, E. Hodgson

Flamed Bizarres.

- Polyphemus (kettle), J. Baron.
 1 Charbonnier, T. Gibson
 2 San Joe, ditto
 3 Polyphemus, R. Birtwistle
 4 Charles X., T. Gibson
 5 Dangerous, ditto
 6 Paganini, ditto
 7 Lustre, E. Hodgson

Feathered Hybloemens.

- Bienfait (kettle), A. Bentley.
 1 Beauty, E. Hodgson
 2 Bienfait, ditto
 3 La Belle Narene, ditto
 4 Ranciffe, R. Birtwistle
 5 Grotius, T. Gibson
 6 Baguet, E. Hodgson
 7 Unknown, ditto

Flamed Hybloemens.

- Martin's Steady (kettle), J. Birtwistle
 1 Pucilla de Dort, T. Gibson
 2 Bienfait, ditto

- 3 Baguet, E. Hodgson
 4 Unknown, T. Gibson
 5 La Belle Narene, E. Hodgson
 6 Unknown, ditto
 7 Lawrence's Friend, T. Gibson

Feathered Roses.

- Lady Crewe (kettle), E. Hodgson.
 1 Lady Crewe, T. Gibson
 2 Comte, E. Hodgson
 3 La Belle Nanette, T. Gibson
 4 Hero, ditto
 5 Claudiana, E. Hodgson
 6 Newcastle, ditto
 7 Walworth, T. Gibson

Flamed Roses.

- Aglaia (kettle), R. Houseman.
 1 La Vandicken, T. Gibson
 2 Aglaia, E. Hodgson
 3 Unique, T. Gibson
 4 Vesta, ditto
 5 Ponceau Brillant, ditto
 6 Quarto, ditto
 7 Guerrier, T. Chippendale

Breeders.

- 1 Martin's Seedling (biz.), T. Gibson
 2 Martin's Seedling (hyb.), ditto
 3 Kate Connor (rose), ditto

Sells.

- 1 White Perfection, T. Gibson
 2 Min d'Or, ditto

ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

THE ONE POINT OF SIZE IN FLORISTS' FLOWERS.

BY GEORGE GLENNY, F.H.S.

It is extraordinary that, notwithstanding all that we have read and written upon this subject, the single quality of size seems to blind one-half the people who pretend to be judges, to other points of infinitely more importance, and that the rage for large flowers is as great as ever. We admit that when all other points are equal, size is an advantage; but coarseness, which in many instances accompanies size, is more than a drawback. That is, coarseness is a greater fault than size is a beauty. It is strange that the very men who condemn roughness, which, in fact, is a species of coarseness, are the first to pass it over, and we never see this more conspicuously shown than in stands of flowers, Carnations, Picotees, Pinks, Pansies, Ranunculuses. Almost everything that is shown in stands, or, as the country people call them, pans, in nine cases out of ten, are placed according to their size. There is something noble, we grant, in a dozen or two large flowers, well assorted. They are very captivating, and the public are easily led astray by size; but there is something so abominably unjust in giving it the lead, that it cannot be too strongly condemned. A man has only to gather older flowers, blooms past their prime, and he gets size; but the flowers are more loose, more ragged, more coarse. Any of the exhibitors could do the same, but those who show their blooms while they are compact, fresh, and in good condition, show them smaller, and are too often sacrificed to the vulgar taste of incompetent judges. We need not say this cannot be just. The veriest tyro, if "The Properties

of Flowers" is put into his hand, will know that he should, in selecting his specimens, choose them for their near approach to form. He will naturally reject those which are past their prime, he will calculate on being judged by the same standard, and we can hardly conceive a more mortifying disappointment than he sustains when he sees a collection of monster blooms, that have lost their principal properties by the mere process of age, placed before him. Is this a new or rare case? Hundreds can answer in the negative from their own experience. There is a medium in all things. We do not advocate the claims of mere buttons. We cannot pretend that the starvling specimens which we have seen put up are to be preferred to well-grown flowers. Nobody can advocate this, however well they may be formed, because a certain size is necessary. Take a number of stands of Pansies at any public show, what but size settles the claims? Ragged at the edges, coarse in their texture, not lying flat, eyes breaking through to the border, flimsy in the petals; all these blemishes are lost sight of in the judgment. The size has captivated the eye at first sight, and the smaller round flowers, smooth at the edge, thick and velvety in the petal, and fair in other properties, are made to give place to the ugly monsters that are approved. Where then is the use of young aspirants to floral honours choosing the best flowers, if all the rules are set at defiance by the censors, and monster flowers are made to win? In Dablia showing it is frequently as bad. We have seen, time after time, size made to "cover a multitude of sins." It is notorious at many shows, that Mr. A. and Mr. B., both large growers and dealers, pride themselves on the size of their flowers, and it is the fashion to put one first and the other second, though neither of these people care a farthing whether the outline is a star or a circle, whether the whole face of the flower is formed of quilled and half-bloomed petals, or the bloom has "gone by," and the centre is all confused by the means

taken to make the petals form the eye. But this is a deplorable state of things, and it leads to a vitiated instead of a refined taste. It encourages the raisers of monsters to push them out at half guineas. Here, too, it may be mentioned that the public are unfairly dealt with in more ways than one. The large dealers in novelties have adopted a new plan for making their principal retail customers push their second and third-rate flowers. The public, of course, must not have anything cheaper, although those who send out flowers can afford to lower their demands; consequently they sell the half-guinea flowers at half-price to *some of their customers*, who can then afford to push their sale; but as they charge other retailers seven shillings instead of five, that is, two-thirds instead of *half*, those who are aware of the fact can undersell those who are not, and the uninitiated wonder that they get so little custom. We mention this to show how it is that the trade in comparatively worthless novelties is kept up. One Wiltshire nurseryman sells a good many of his at half price, but this year he happens to turn out one which ~~has~~ been exhibited fine, and because it is just as good as all should be that are charged half-a-guinea, it is to be charged fifteen shillings, as if it were a settled thing that the public *shall pay more for a thing than it is worth*. Now the success of the dealers in worthless novelties arises from the obstinacy of the managers of exhibitions, who will employ trading florists and nurserymen as judges; for inasmuch as they ~~must~~ either be wilful deceivers or bad judges to let out so many bad things with good characters, they cannot be proper persons to judge other people's productions. We have been to many shows; we have had to judge with nurserymen and trading florists, and have frequently had as hard a struggle to carry our point—which we *always will carry*, or back out from deciding—because we were contending against *interested judges*, and we never yet saw the interest of *true floriculture* studied by a dealer, when that interest

was opposed to his own. This is perhaps a harsh judgement, but it applies to a few who thrust themselves forward, and we appeal to the amateurs, who have had to abide by it, if we are not correct. Whether it is that the ordinary run of customers admire large flowers, and that fact induces the trade to encourage them, or that their own natural taste runs upon size, we know not; but certain it is that wherever dealers rule, size gets the prizes, always against compact, well-formed varieties. In Carnations, Picotees, and Pinks, the same absurd misjudgment prevails where the shows are public. The idea of appreciating finely-marked flowers, with all the properties approached, never seems to enter their minds. The best are put down below the large, loose, ragged specimens that have "growth in them," as they call it. Let a stand of Pinks, an inch and a half across, well laced, smoothly edged, uniform, and of a good colour, be exhibited by A., and a dozen, two inches across, not half so rich in properties, be put up by B., and Mr. B. carries away the prize. What effect has this? Why that Mr. A. buys in the coarse flowers, and grows them coarse, abandons all idea of winning with good ones, and is eventually spoiled as a florist. The only thing that keeps the spirit of true floriculture alive is the fact that small societies, who exhibit in a room, appoint well-known judges to decide the awards, have the flowers on the table after dinner and discuss their merits, have not been superseded by the large ones, and that in these societies the real properties of the flowers are maintained. Coarseness is almost condemned at first sight, and among the numerous beauties that constitute a perfect flower, not one is overlooked. But it must not be inferred from this that we consider size of less value than it is. All we say of size is, that it is *but one point*, and should be so considered, and as there are some flowers that are both large and fine, we have always advocated the showing of three sizes in a stand, the back row largest, the middling ones

next, and the smaller in front, because it affords an opportunity of showing each size well, that is to say, as good as they will grow. The best flowers in the world lose many points when too old, although they gain the one point of size. The finest model of a Dahlia, a Ranunculus, Pink, Carnation, or Picotee, becomes confused when over-blown, and should never be allowed in that state to win. If we are wrong in any of these points, the *Midland Florist* is open to fair discussion, and science never loses by a well-conducted controversy.

PRUNING ROSE TREES.

ROSES delight in a rich soil, and should be manured at least once every year. In winter, the manure should be applied in a solid, and in spring, in a liquid state.

The two chief objects to be attained in pruning the Rose, are the formation of a handsome tree, and the obtaining an abundance of good flowers, and to secure these points, it is necessary to begin operations when the plant is young. A certain number of shoots, varying from three to seven, according to the strength of the plant, standing as nearly as possible equal, and the greatest distance apart, should be selected, and the remaining shoots be cut clean out. Close pruning is suitable for the small-growing varieties, but not for the stronger ones, and I have found that moderately close pruning produces the finest flowers. The spring is to be preferred for operation, as there is no risk of the frost injuring the shoots left, which is no uncommon case with the tender varieties, when pruned in autumn. Tender kinds of Roses are most effectually protected by pressing the shoots close down to the ground, at the commencement of winter, and covering them over with dry ferns. Roses are effectually preserved this

way, provided the shoots get properly matured during the summer and autumn. For standards of a tender character, pieces of fern may be loosely tied among the branches forming the head; they should be tied together by the stems, and placed over like an extinguisher. But these protectors must all be gradually removed in April and May.

JOHN THOMPSON,

Gardener to — Marett, Esq., Avarande St. Lawrence, Jersey.

THE PROPERTIES OF TULIPS.

THE form of the Tulip, as laid down in the work called "The Properties of Flowers," should be from a third to half a hollow ball, and all the special pleading of the last twenty years has not changed the opinion of practical cultivators, nor shaken the conviction of judges. They all perfectly understand the liberty taken to include all the gradations between the one proportion and the other, because they are all to be had in the same flower. Let any grower select a flower which in ordinary weather will be half a hollow ball, let it be placed in a warm room, or, if in the bed, watch it, and it will expand as it warms, until it is only the third, and will of course be larger; and he is a bold man who shall presume to say that it is imperfect in any of its gradations between the two extremes. So far as the marking goes, there can be no disagreement. We say, in the south, all six petals *shall be alike*. You in the north do not contradict this. We say the feather shall be unbroken all round the edge; you all subscribe to this. But our judges do not carry out the intentions of the work. We are very jealous of the base of the flower, which, to be passed at all, must be clean; you have become equally so of late years; but your judges, like ours, do not always fulfil your wishes. We require a thick, smooth-edged petal; so do you;

but we cannot at once have all we want. So that the north and the south positively agree on the properties required to make a perfect Tulip, but as none are without fault, you and we have only to appoint judges who will carry out the dogmas laid down. There is this to be said against many of our growers, they will not, in their enthusiasm for a pure base, see blemishes of the highest importance. The flower may not have two petals alike, but it has a clean bottom, and they lose sight of all the other faults. Perhaps there are not two petals alike, perhaps the feathering has twenty breaks in it, perhaps there is no symmetry in the flower, and yet the clean bottom carries it all through.

A METROPOLITAN.

HYBRIDIZING AS A SCIENCE.

I HAVE now been an amateur hybridist for nearly twenty-five years, and as the pursuit has been followed solely for the purposes of pleasure, and not with the object of gain, I trust you will not deem me presumptuous if I venture to offer you a few hints, which may prove of service. I should not have done this, had not a short article of yours (many years ago) on the improvement of the Polyanthus, convinced me that my method was unknown to you. I refer to the instructions on hybridizing, in which you, or your correspondent, state that the pin-eyed ones are the only flowers that can be operated upon, because, in the good varieties, the stigma is too low down to get at. Now I am satisfied that my plan has not been adopted, because no great advance has been made in that flower.

Invariably, when seeding, secure every possible advantage, and run no avoidable risk. The plant to be seeded is kept apart from the general collection, natural fertilization is avoided, and each flower, as it is impregnated, is registered. Of course I am only

referring to simple flowers, such as the Polyanthus, Phlox, Mimulus, &c.

I treat all tube flowers very summarily, by cutting off all the blooms that I do not wish to set. The flowers that I wish to seed are, when half formed, cut open with fine dissecting scissors quite to the base, and the anthers extracted; thus either no seed is obtained or a certain cross effected. To register the crosses, I provide a small metallic paper Harwood's diary, and rule it thus,

1	WT 4	BT 2	WS 3				
2							
3							
4	WT 1	BT 2	WS 3				

The parent plant being different to No. 1, the same marks serve to distinguish the +.

The first column shows the number of the plants that are employed, thus—

- 1 Blandina.
- 2 Occulata.
- 3 Venusta.
- 4 Floribunda. Thus Phlox blandina, or No. 1, has flowers fertilized with Phloxes 2, 3, and 4.
- 4 is marked with white thread.
- 2 is marked with black thread.
- 3 is marked with white silk, &c. &c.

Consequently, if too much seed of any particular cross is set, I can thin out the worst pods and retain as much as is required.

The Phlox is the most obstinate plant to manage that I ever undertook. I believe that I attended to these plants for three months, and only obtained about a dozen seeds, but then each cross, well managed, produces something very beautiful. I refer here to crossing the perennial on to the Drummondii species. I venture to assert, that if the best perennial white (Omniflora) be crossed on to Occulata and Alba (Drummondii), the produce will be peren-

nials and EVERGREENS!! of very fine form, immense blooming propensities, but barren, except perhaps that they might cross back on to *Drummondii*.

Many years ago, when but few species of *Achimenes* were known, I undertook this plant. The first attempt gave me *Venusta* and *Floribunda elegans*, which I gave to Backhouse and Co., of York, who took both the profit and *credit*, but then they are friends. I could not continue my experiments further, because my father left Leeds, and I lost the use of his stoves; but I assert confidently, that long before the present time, I could have introduced numbers of splendid *Achimenes*, had I but had a small stove.

No one thus far (I have not seen those raised the last two years) has raised a decent *Mimulus*, except from my plants, and I began with a miserable little white and crimson variety—*Moodii* and *Rivularis*. I have now enumerated those plants that have had my especial care, and shall trouble you with what I have done in imagination, for I invariably indulge in theoretical productions before proceeding seriously to work.

A MONSTER.—The Snake Cucumber and an immense Pumpkin.

STRIPED INDIAN PINKS.—Indian Pinks and Carnations. Probably cross back on to the Pink.

IMPROVED PINKS.—First cross on to Indian Pink; second, third, &c., Pink, Pink, Pink.

FUCHSIA.—I would here begin at the beginning. *Macrophylla* cross white, dark, and one with large corolla,—crossing backwards and forwards as might be, but I would have the habit and freedom of bloom of the former.

THUNBERGIA.—All with *Chrysops*. Why has the last never been employed? Will it hybridize? or were mechanical difficulties the obstacle?

POLYANTHUS.—The best with white, crimson, or lilac primroses, for size and novelty of colour; then I would work for form and other properties.

AURICULA.—With Alpines and other species, for novelty of colour; then work for form and properties.

Any number of both annuals and perennials are

susceptible of immense and certain improvement, but I have really already presumed too much on your forbearance, and therefore conclude with many apologies, and remain,

A. C.

Mr. Glenny is indebted to a distinguished amateur for the foregoing paper, and thought it could not be more acceptable anywhere than in the *Midland Florist*, though he believes it was not written for publication, and therefore did not feel at liberty to publish the name.

THE TREE CARNATION.

THE introduction of these, in their novel and improved state, adds a most important race to our florists' flowers, for, though very imperfect, as regards form, all that may come in time. In their present state they are rough, and even in that ugly state they are useful, for they flower all the winter long. The varieties are numerous, and many of the colours brilliant. In Sardinia they calculate on twenty classes, and in each class many varieties. We strongly recommend those who wish to be better acquainted with them to send a stamp to Mr. Carter, of Holborn, who will give them a catalogue in which all these classes or varieties, and all the sub-varieties, are described. An amateur has been the principal grower in Sardinia, and has consigned the seeds to Mr. Carter, and we are glad to hail the collection as our "Sardinian contingent." The cultivation does not differ materially from that of the ordinary Carnation, except that at the end of the autumn they should be grown in the greenhouse, where they will give their flowers continually, because they keep "growing and blooming." They grow very tall, and require support like the others. The chief faults in the flowers at present are, the ill-defined narrow scratchy

stripes, and the speckled ground. On this account the selfs are at present the best. It may be recollected that Henderson, of the Wellington-road Nursery, St. John's Wood, exhibited a collection, last summer, at Chiswick, perhaps twenty of them, and there were among them a few striking selfs which we thought far better than the rest. We never inquired whence they were imported, but we suspect from France, and when we recollect how far the French, and indeed all the continental varieties, were behind us in the florists' flower, and what a fuss was made about the dirty scratchy yellows and smoky colours, without a clear ground or a well-developed mark, we are in hopes that we shall be able to do something with the tree sorts. We have, however, a good deal to do; we must get rid of the deep serratures, the splashy ground colour, the narrow confused marks, and the ill-shaped petals; and we confess we long to see the produce of twenty-five packets of seed which comprises our "Sardinian contingent," because, besides being so many varieties or classes, they are represented as each containing seeds from many sub-varieties. Many have yellow grounds, and believing them to be perfectly hardy, we shall sow them in so many patches, to be planted out when at maturity, and potted up in the autumn. We shall not fail to give the result.

COSMOPOLITE.

THE TROPÆOLUM.

HAVING been requested by several gentlemen to give a few remarks on the Tropæolum, I will endeavour to lay down my method.

These plants are natives of a warm climate, and therefore require to be kept from frost, although they are not very tender. The bulbous roots, during the

dry season, in their native country, enjoy a period of rest, and this period of rest should be imitated by a gradual cessation of watering. They begin to vegetate in October or November, and as soon as I perceive them commencing growth, I replot them in the following compost:—One part decayed leaf mould, and one cow dung, with plenty of silver sand. As you place the soil in the pots, with plenty of drainage, mix some pieces of charcoal amongst it, as the roots of the plants seem to enjoy any kind of rough pieces of brick, or charcoal. Place in the bulb, and press the soil firm. Then put down your trellis, which should be of some light material. The minute stems will soon reach this, when daily attention to their training will be required, as they are of very rapid growth. Keep the plants in an airy part of the greenhouse. They will require shading from the hot sun, as the foliage soon scorches, and exposure to heat takes away the colour of the flowers. Be particular in keeping them clear of insects, for if once they are allowed to get a head, the plants will turn yellow and die away.

R. E.

THE CHINESE HOLLYHOCK.

THIS annual has almost gone out of date, because there is a generally conceived notion that there is no dependance in the seed. Yet we see no good reason why we should not be able to make this as subservient as the Balsam. And be it known there is no dependance in Balsam seed when it is single. It is only when we get the flowers so double as to exclude the insect tribe that we can depend on it. Now the Chinese Hollyhock was for the most part single for the few years we grew it early in life; yet we did now and then find a semi-double one, and had we

pursued it as we did the Balsam, we should no doubt have produced them quite double, from which, in time, we should calculate on bringing them as true from seed as from cuttings; but until a flower can be brought sufficiently double to defeat the prying propensities of bees and flies, they must and will sport; but we are by no means convinced that the Chinese Hollyhock may not be made a perennial. We have known them stand partly into winter, and if it be simply tender, we may find that cuttings, taken off and struck, and preserved in the house or under glass for the winter, may do well. If so, we have only to propagate the best, and sow seed from the best, to conduct it to a respectable station among florists' flowers. Mignonette ranks as an annual, and we have kept it three years, and might have kept it longer, but as the flower is nothing, there is no object to be attained by it. We have taken the side shoots from Stocks very young, and grown them the next year, and there are several annuals which finish with the first hard frost, that, grown in pots and housed, would continue for a considerable period in flower. The Chinese Hollyhock would be desirable when double, because it grows three feet high instead of six or eight. Some of the colours, too, are pretty. But we must warn those who wish to try them that we have two years together had the common Hollyhock seed, and been disappointed. The true Chinese Hollyhock grows neat and clean, forms a very pretty pyramid of flower, and in full growth and bloom does not exceed three feet in height while in good trim. It is worth any one trying to improve it. We should like to see some one take it up as earnestly as poor Mr. Barron did the other Hollyhock, for he brought that to such perfection that it was no trouble to go on. He produced them very double, very thick in the petal, very remarkable in the colour, and those who saved seed from them could not very well go wrong.

LINNÆUS.

THE PANSY AND ITS PROPERTIES.

BY GEORGE GLENNY, F.H.S.

SINCE 1832, when the properties of the Pansy were first settled, numerous pretenders have ventured to dispute—no ! that is hardly a fair term,—ventured to add to the points which we asserted would be perfection in the flower. So many sages in the florist world assumed a sort of dictation, that when “The Properties” were first published the “old stagers” seemed to be offended that a new light sprang up to set the good folks to rights upon the points that would constitute perfection in florists’ flowers. The wiseacres discovered that the circular form proposed for the Pansy was contrary to the nature of the Heartsease, and laughed for a while at our silly notion, as they called it, that such a flower would ever lose its natural character. We had, for a considerable period, to put up with the sneers of Pansy dealers. Time, however, and public faith in our ideal model, produced the very thing that men pronounced impossible, and the nearer a new variety approached to the circular outline, the better the public liked it, the more popular it became. Our idea of a circle was no longer laughed at, and “the circle, the whole circle, and nothing but the circle,” will now go down. We may have “destroyed the nature of the flower,” as we have been told we have ; but it must be remembered that florists are always battling against nature. Our dictum that a Pansy “should be round, flat, and very smooth, every notch, or serrature, or unevenness being a blemish,” was an established fact ; a law which, like that of the Medes and Persians, “altereth not.” The mere addition of “any notch, or serrature, or unevenness being a blemish” was almost unnecessary, because it interfered with the circle, and detracted from the first acknowledged rule, that it “must be round and flat.” Our next dictum was that “the petals should be thick

and of a velvety texture." This was never disputed; it was self-evident. A thin petal would not stand, nor can the colours be so dense, nor the flower last so long in bloom; and as to the texture, we have only to set one of the papery kind against the velvet to decide in an instant upon the superiority of the latter. We now come to a point which was disputed for years, but as our "properties" were settled upon principles which nothing could shake, the disputants had to give way. Our dictum was, "whatever may be the colours, the ground colour of the three lower petals should be alike; whether it be white, yellow, straw colour, plain, fringed, or blotched, there should not in these three petals be a shade of difference in the principal colour." Now this was very inconvenient to the dealers, because three out of four of all the flowers of that day were notoriously paler in the ground of the side petals than the ground of the lower petal. The crack novelties were so, and our respected friend, Mr. Thompson, of Iver, would not be reconciled to the propriety of our decision. However facts are stubborn things; some few of the favourites even of that period were alike in the ground colour of the lower petals, and a child could see their superiority. Even our Iver friend, when he discovered among his numerous seedlings a few rich in that particular, put on top prices, boasted of the improvement, and gave way. At length, therefore, it was universally admitted that our "whim," as it was called, for having the ground colour all alike, was right. Even the old yellow ground favourite, Eclipse, long considered the best of the yellow class, was a trifle paler always, but now and then too conspicuously paler, in the side petals to be relied on in a stand. As we proceeded, we got further into trouble, and deeper in dispute; but we were too careful in all our decisions to let them depend on the caprice of dealers. We said, "whatever may be the character of the marks or darker pencillings on the ground colour, they should be bright, or dense, dis-

tinct, and retain their character without running, or flushing, or mixing with the ground colour, and the white, yellow, or straw colour should be pure." There were at that time numerous varieties curious and novel, and even pretty, to look at, but in which the border colour was cloudy-edged, dying off gradually into the ground colour, and these, without an exception, grew more cloudy and flushed till they faded altogether, so that there was no purity in the ground colour after the flowers had been out awhile. The new dictum, of course, banished these from exhibitions, although they had been tolerated, and some were even sold at high prices. The conditions we attached to perfection, however, allowed of nothing indefinite and the superiority of those that were distinct was so manifest, that the careless advocates of anything new were obliged to give way, and admit we were right. We now approach a still more ticklish point, which novelty-mongers fought against to the last, and which some clever simpletons, who do not dispute our accuracy, sadly want to make additions to. We, of course, had in our minds the great variety which the Pansy would provide, and had to steer a course which should not limit the number. If we had descended too much into detail we might, like some other wiseacres, limit the proportion which one petal should bear to another, insist that the eye should be in the centre, or lay down the exact quantity of white or yellow that was proper. Such twaddle we left to the would-be clever fellows, who would have given their ears to be author of "The Properties of Flowers," and who therefore constantly itch to add something that the public would adopt, and as constantly find themselves set down as ignorant meddlers. We say, "the two upper petals should be perfectly uniform, whether dark, or light, or fringed, or blotched; the two petals immediately under them should be alike, and the lower petal, as before observed, must have the same ground colour and character as the two above it;" and then comes a very

important and long-disputed point, "and the pencilings or markings in the eye in the three lower petals must not break through to the edges." Here, then, it will be seen that we leave the size of the white, or yellow, or straw-coloured field to vary as it may, the broad or narrow borders to be unrestricted, the size, the density, the fulness in the mere rays called the eye perfectly at liberty as it were, for in such variations will consist the character that distinguishes one from the other. "If the eye were too large, and the field were too small," says one ingenious special pleader, "you will admit that to be a blemish?" We say that if our conditions be complied with the eye cannot be too large, nor the field too small; but if the eye breaks through the field to the border it will be because the eye is too large and the field too small; and we say, further, that if the eye does not break through to the border, it is not too large, nor is the field too small. The properties are founded on principles that nothing can shake. Let us have the perfect circle for an outline, a good thick petal, very smooth on the edge and very flat, with well-defined colours, uniform on the top petals, alike in the side petals, the same ground colour in the three lower petals, and our special-pleading brethren cannot give us an imperfect flower. The eye may be as small as a pin's head, the field may occupy all the rest of the flower but a rim as wide as a sixpence is thick, and the eye will not be too small, nor the field too large. Give us a border that reaches half-way in, and an eye that all but fills it up, but does not break through to it, and the field will not be too small, nor the eye too large. How any man can be found silly enough to restrict, or rather to wish to restrict, the proportions which alone in some varieties make them distinguished, we know not; he would create a sameness that would destroy all the charms of a collection; but if any of the small fry of horticultural literature descend even to the folly of fixing the eye in the centre of the flower and dictating the proportions of

petal that are to surround it, the sooner the floral world gets rid of them the better. Yet, stupid as this may seem, we are credibly informed there has been something like this proposed by one of the scribbling fraternity; and, truly, after some of the trash we have seen in the picture books, nothing would surprise us. All we have to advise our floral friends is, to well consider that we have laid down all the essentials of a perfect flower; that we have left abundant room for variations; and that no man fit to be trusted in any situation to set an example or to dictate to others will for an instant attempt additional restrictions, for the effect would be to deprive us of the great interest felt in all collections—distinct variations. The properties of the Pansy, as now confirmed by the best (not the most successful, for success now depends chiefly on fraud and cunning) florists in the country, is one of our triumphs over deeply-set prejudice and cunningly contrived opposition. We care no more whether the eye of a Pansy be high or low, large or small, only comply with our other conditions, and put the eye where you please, for our conditions of uniformity place it half-way between the side petals, and whether it be nearer the top or nearer the bottom will only make one of the distinctions by which we know one good flower from another.

CUTTINGS.

It may be worth while to devote a little space in your *Midland Florist* to the explanation of the principle of propagation by cuttings; and this just now will be seasonable, as the spring months offer the greatest facilities for this species of propagation. The cuttings of most of the plants termed soft-wooded, such as Geraniums, Fuchsias, and others among stove plants, root with little trouble, if cut

with about three pairs of leaves, the lowest pair being removed, and the cutting cut clean through with a sharp knife, close below where they were attached. They should then be planted in sandy soil, and set in a close frame, with or without heat, according to their nature. In general, a light heat may be given, and it will facilitate their rooting, but the hardier kinds of plants must not be subjected to it too long. As soon as they are fairly rooted, the cuttings should be potted off into single pots, in soil proper for them, and they will require a little nursing till they strike fresh roots, when they may be gradually hardened off to bear the treatment suitable to their respective kinds. As the cuttings root better when planted against the pot side than when placed in a mass of soil, it is a common practice to insert a small pot in the centre, around and against which the cuttings are placed. This pot may be filled with water, if necessary, the bottom being corked up, and the moisture will then pass gradually through the sides of the pot, and refresh the cuttings. The management of cuttings, after they are planted, depends on the general principle that where life is weak all excesses or exterior agency must have a tendency to extinguish it;—too much light, air, water, heat, or cold, are therefore alike injurious to them, and they require care in shading and keeping them covered with bell-glasses, to preserve them as far as possible in a uniform and shady condition.

JOHN THOMPSON, *Jersey.*

ON SCHEDULES FOR SHOWS.

BY THE EDITOR.

It is too generally the case that schedules are made up to suit particular parties, instead of to advance the interests of science, and except in those shows which are governed by societies at large, that is, by the

general body, there is nothing like fair dealing with the public. We will explain very clearly what we mean. In most places where public shows are held, the arrangements are made by the committee. Supposing this committee had the encouragement of horticulture for their object, and had no private interests to serve, they would, in making up their schedule, attend to two points especially; first, to give their prizes for the most interesting subjects; secondly, to encourage the greatest number of competitors. We do not know a single instance of these points ruling the decisions, except where the members at large are the rulers. Let us state a case. A committee is sitting to draw up a schedule. They all know that there are twenty cultivators of the Dahlia in the neighbourhood, but that A. B., Esq., and the Rev. C. D. have large grounds, and grow the flower to a great extent. They all know that these two gentlemen could beat the rest combined. Honesty and a love of the science would prompt these gentlemen to offer five or six prizes at the least for Dahlias, because as the first and second must be won by the two large growers, the remainder would go among the more humble cultivators. Honesty of purpose would also dictate a very little variation in the value of the prizes. Suppose five guineas to be awarded, they might give thirty shillings for the first, twenty-five for the second, twenty for the third, fifteen for the fourth, ten for the fifth, and five for the sixth; thus four prizes would go among men struggling for floral honours, and the two highest to the two favoured by fortune. But what is the plan of the committee? Why they offer three guineas for the first prize, and two for the second, thus virtually excluding all but their two favourites from the show, because they all well know it would be a waste of time and money to spend an hour or a shilling in competition. Have we stated a rare case? It may be imaginary as to amount, but the principle is carried out in nine shows of every ten. Well they come to another item, Mr.

E. F. grows Roses in great quantity all over his ground, there must be a prize for Roses. A member gets up and reminds the meeting that G. H. also grows Roses, though in much less numbers. Ah! then there must be two prizes. The committee, however, know to a man that there are eight or ten more who grow Roses in still less quantities, but nevertheless grow them well, although they could not compete with the two in question. Well, two prizes only are offered for Roses, the hopes of all but the two gentlemen are cut off, and the public lose the benefit of their flowers in the show room. So it runs through most of the schedules. For good things that everybody can grow, either just enough prizes to satisfy the two or three largest growers are offered, or none at all. In the Horticultural Society it was so, none but those who could grow largely were encouraged, and, worse than this, the money that would divide into half-a-dozen prizes was always devoted to the two or three who were sure to win them. Can this be right? We have known the Norwich Society to award twenty guineas for the first prize in Dahlias, five pounds for the second, and none for the third. Can this encourage emulation among growers in general? Can anything tend more to dishearten the young grower than this exclusive mode of dealing? It is bad enough to put up with unfair judgment, which is a very general fault, either from ignorance or design, but it is infinitely worse to see foul play in the very schedule. It is impossible to impress too strongly on the minds of persons who serve on committees, or have any voice in the management of shows, that the only way to promote the advancement of horticulture is to have but few classes, to have numerous prizes in each class, and to have very little difference between the prizes. Let the gradations from first to second be small, and keep the same difference all the way down to the lowest that is given. Young cultivators will then launch out a little, and hope to win, whereas under the present system it is

impossible. We have already schedules for 1856 where, even for cottagers, there are but two prizes for the greater number of productions. Even for Potatoes, which everybody will admit is most important, there are two prizes for round Potatoes and two for kidneys, whereas there should be at least six in each class, for every man with a rood of ground should be encouraged to grow them, and more especially the humble cottagers. Whereas the money is frittered away for plates of Gooseberries, of Currants, of Cherries, of Pears, of Apples, not one of which is essential to the cottager's happiness or interests. Worse than this, there are prizes for flowers among the cottagers, which prizes we hold to be premiums for wasting time, for extravagance, and perhaps for crime. The cottagers cannot afford to buy flowers fit to compete at shows; the labouring man cannot spare time to attend to them. If he buys expensive plants, his family must go short of something, or he has so much short at the savings bank. If he steals them, the committee who offer the bribe are the cause. It takes a man as long to grow a dozen Pinks or Pansies for show as it would to grow a rood of good useful vegetables. Not that we object to them growing flowers for their own pleasure and as ornaments for the garden, they want no more care than Cabbages, and a few seeds will set him up; but the grower for show distorts his garden; common flowers are no use to him, he must beg, buy, or steal show varieties, he must attend to them at all hours, shade them, protect them from wet and wind, disfiguring his garden, wasting his time, and even then bringing floriculture into disrepute, by showing, after all he can do, inferior productions. If the cottagers' prizes go all for useful vegetables, and those prizes are numerous, there is encouragement for all; but where there is only a first and second prize, there are generally two, much stronger than the rest, to take all the money, and deter others from attempting to compete. We hope these remarks are in time to

suggest changes in schedules already agreed upon, and to prevent a repetition of the evil in those not yet proposed.

THE CALCEOLARIA.

MR. EDITOR, I doubt not but that every grower of these plants will agree with me in stating that one dozen good specimens, that is to say, one dozen plants grown in halfpeck pots, if well grown, will make a better display in the greenhouse, than four dozen in pint pots. Plants grown in large sized pots are not subject to such sudden changes as those in small ones, therefore they will continue in bloom much longer, and the bloom will be much larger. I frequently grow my plants very large, and they are at this time throwing up from ten to twelve flowering stems, and the leaves are more like those of the Foxglove than the Calceolaria. They are seedlings, raised from the best sorts, therefore I am in expectation of having a grand display this season. The compost I use is one part leaf mould, one rotten cow dung, one loam, and one silver sand, well mixed together. I sow the seed about the middle of July, in pans or pots, as most convenient, with plenty of drainage. I fill the pans to about one inch of the top, pressing the soil firm, and then sow the seed, covering but lightly, with the compost before named, finely sifted. I place the pans in a shady part of the greenhouse, or frame, then give a good watering, and put in a few pegs, over which I place a sheet or two of thin paper, to keep the soil from drying.

As soon as the plants make their appearance, I take off the paper, but let them remain in a shady place, and when they are large enough, transplant them singly into small pots, using the same compost as before. I then plunge them in a frame, giving a good watering, with a fine rose watering pot, and

keep the frame closed for a few days, till the plants have made fresh roots. I then admit air freely, but always avoid hot sun, as these plants are very liable to scorch. I repot into larger sizes as they require, never allowing them to get stocky, or they will not make large plants. To make good specimens, I frequently stop my plants three times, always stopping all the shoots on the plant at the same time, to cause them to break altogether, and ensure a mass of bloom all over the plants. When the flower stems get about four or five inches long, I tie them out regularly, to form a globular head. At this stage, weak manure water will be of great advantage to the plants.

J. R.

THE CULTIVATION OF THE CAMELLIA.

[Continued from last month.]

I WILL now offer a few remarks on the treatment of those plants which from any cause may have become unhealthy, and as no effectual remedy can be applied but at the roots, the plant must be turned out of the pot, and all the sour earth removed. The roots of the Camellia are unlike those of most other plants, and more especially so when in an unhealthy state. Portions of the ball, where not a single fibre is to be found, frequently running up the centre of the roots, while in other places, generally in a position inclining upwards, is a narrow slip full of compact hard roots, and thus, while the former should be entirely cleared away,—and indeed every particle of soil not held firm and secure by the roots ought by all means to be removed—great care must be taken not to injure the fibrous portions. A pot, as described in the last number, should be provided only sufficiently large to admit the roots, and be filled up with the compost before mentioned, which should be carefully pressed down and rendered as

compact as possible. After this operation, the plants should be placed in a moist heat, of from fifty-five to seventy degrees. A peach house or vinery is preferable for them, especially the former, as the foliage of the peach trees would afford a partial shade, which is desirable. As the season advances, by being carefully watered and attended to, they will produce shoots freely, depending, of course, on the state of the roots, and a gentle syringing will be attended with benefit. It may be as well to remark, that plants, whilst undergoing this treatment, should be occasionally examined, to guard against deception, as syringing has a tendency to produce on the top of the soil a dark coloured crust, which, to an unpracticed eye, will appear to have a moist, and in some cases, a wet appearance, whilst underneath, the roots are dry, and in all probability the plants are suffering from drought. When the plants have matured and nearly ripened their annual shoots, they may be removed to a very cool greenhouse, or be placed under a canvass roof, having a north-east aspect. For my part, I frequently place them in the open air, during the summer months, but it has still to be learnt whether this treatment will succeed in keeping the plants in vigorous health, and prevent them from falling into premature decay.

It is frequently attempted to cultivate the *Rose of the winter* in the windows of our dwelling-rooms, but in very few instances do these attempts meet with success, and although a particularly hardy plant may preserve its appearance for twelve months in this situation, still that is the full period that it can be kept, under ordinary circumstances, in a tolerable condition. Unlike soft-wooded plants, as Salvias, Pelargoniums, Petunias, Fuchsias, &c., which, by proper treatment, may be recovered from a sickly state in a few weeks, the Camellia, when once allowed to fall into a sickly state of growth, takes two years of attention and proper treatment to restore it to its pristine vigour. In speaking of window plants,

those only are meant which are usually kept near the glass, with the lower parts of their stems and roots exposed to the draught, whenever the room is ventilated. In spacious rooms or halls, plants may be kept on stages prepared for the purpose, and placed near the windows, and in such a situation Camellias may be cultivated with as much, if not more success than many other plants, provided sufficient care be taken to keep them clear from dust, and frequently turn them round upon the stage, that all sides of the plants may have the full benefit of light and air.

As a conservatory plant, to be grown in the open borders, the Camellia is perhaps unequalled in grandeur, but as this paper has already exceeded its intended limit, I shall defer offering any remarks until a future period.

R. E.

MELONS.

THOSE who wish to have Melons in perfection cannot do better than begin now, as they will then have the advantage of the full summer's sun. The best contrivance for spring growth is the old hotbed and garden frame. I have seen them grown well in houses heated with hot water, but as there is much difficulty in keeping the roots properly moist in this manner, failures are not uncommon. In making a hotbed for melons, great care must be taken that the burning heat is gone out of the manure, before using, for if the plants once get injured at the root, they will never recover. The bed having been made, and the frame put on, the soil may be put in. This should be a good strong loam, rendered very fine as it is put in. The heat should be allowed to rise to about seventy five degrees, when the plants may be put out. These plants should have their leading shoots pinched off, when they have made two rough

leaves. They will then throw out numerous side shoots, the strongest of which must be selected, and pegged down, until they have nearly reached the sides of the frame, when the ends should be pinched off, which will cause them to throw out their bearing shoots, which should also be stopped one leaf above where they show fruit. Care must be taken to fertilize each fruit flower as it opens, which may be done by looking over the plants every morning. When the fruit is set, so as to distinguish the quantity, they should be thinned out to six or eight at most to a light, which will be as many as the plants will be able to ripen well. I always keep a moist growing atmosphere, by frequently watering over head, until the fruit has nearly attained its full size; after which, no moisture is allowed to come near the foliage or fruit, and whenever they are watered, it is conveyed to the roots by inserting a pipe in the soil, so as to give a good soaking without risking the fruit. There are almost as many different varieties of Melons as there are gardens, but every gardener has his favourites; mine are the Beechwood, Blomham Hall, and Egyptian, all green flesh varieties.

W. S.

THE ENEMY AMONG THE ROSES.

WE have received letters on this subject from several of our contributors. We subjoin extracts, the letters being much too long for insertion. We shall be glad to receive communications from other quarters.

I have been sadly plagued with the little caterpillar described in page 135, and it is owing to this mischievous little insect that I have lost many of my finest blooms; but I most certainly shall try the preventive recommended in your last, and have little doubt but that I shall exterminate the little pests, and will acquaint you with the result.

J. W. M., *Beverley.*

For several years past, I have observed the Tortrise Sp., as you name it, among my Roses, but have never found the insect to destroy the buds in the least.

J. HARRIS, *Newcastle-on-Tyne.*

The insect described in your last has made its appearance for the last four years, but we have never found any great detriment arising therefrom.

J. S., *Newark.*

THE COTTAGER'S PAGE.

EVERY well managed cottage garden should be supplied with one of those simple but useful contrivances a garden frame, as in it may be preserved through the winter, Cauliflowers, Lettuce, or other plants that will not bear the severity of that season. In early spring, many things might be raised with but little trouble, and the use we would put it to during the summer months would be the production of Cucumbers. These might have been started a week or two ago, but better, late than never. To make your bed, get a load or two of good stable dung, and turn it over a few times, to allow the burning heat to pass off; make it into a bed, place on the frame, and put soil inside to the depth of about a foot. The best soil for this purpose is a mixture of two parts loam and one of good rotten manure. Place on your lights, and let it remain until the soil is about new milk warm, or if you have a thermometer, until the heat has risen to seventy-five or eighty degrees. Some good plants may then be set, and slightly shaded from the hot sun. As the plants grow, the shoots must be neatly trained and pegged, and the end pinched of each, as soon as it has made two leaves. By doing this, there will be a constant succession of new shoots and fruit. Air must be admitted to the plants at all times when the sun is out; and when very hot, throw a little straw or other light material over the glass, for shade.

The leaves must not be allowed to get too thick, but on no account must a leaf be taken off where a fruit bud is swelling at the joint it comes from, or the fruit will not progress satisfactorily.

W. S.

BALSAM GROWING FOR SHOW.

WE, last season, exhibited twelve hundred Balsams, from the 11th to the end of August; they were considered in perfection, and of course many hundreds saw them. This led to a great number of inquiries how to grow them, and until the last month or six weeks we sent out hundreds of printed lessons, nay thousands, but when they were all gone we printed no more, and now we are requested to give a few important hints.

Balsams may be produced any size, because they will grow as long as you keep up heat, moisture, pot room, and pick off the bloom buds. If they are allowed to go to flower, the growth comparatively stops.

Balsams generally flower on the centre stem before the side branches grow, and the centre is shabby when the side branches bloom; consequently they must have the buds picked off the centre stem until the side branches are ready to bloom also, when they may all be allowed to bloom together.

Balsams, under any circumstances, must have plenty of room, to be healthy. As soon as one pot fills with roots, it must be changed for a larger, so long as the plant is wanted; and the soil should be two-thirds good loam and one-third rotten dung.

As the buds, when as large as Peas, take about a fortnight to get into bloom, you can see what time to leave off picking the buds for any given show; but it is clear, from these facts, that from the same sowing, Balsams may be shown at three different

months, only that the later they are allowed to bloom the larger the plants and the pots they grow in.

Supposing then that we want to exhibit, we should pick off all the buds but one, that we might see as early as possible the character of each flower; but the moment we had seen that, we should remove the flower, and continue the disbudding until the time for letting them bloom.

By leaving one flower on, we should be enabled to select and show plants at an early period, and that one flower blooming will not materially check the growth of the plant.

Attention to these few points will enable any one to be right for the days of show; and if they are all wanted moderate sized plants, all we have to do is to sow in April, May, and June.

G. G.

ACHIMENES.

OF all our summer greenhouse, or rather I ought to say stove plants, these are the most beautiful, and their management is so easy that any one with limited means may grow them. The soil they require is a mixture of peat, loam, and leaf mould, equal parts, with a good supply of sand. The roots should be started in February or March, by plunging the pots in bottom heat, either in a stove or hotbed, with a frame. When about an inch high, they should be transplanted into the pots they are to bloom in. The pots should be filled up two-thirds at least with crocks; or a smaller pot may be inverted inside the large one, and the space round the sides filled up with crocks, so as to leave the soil about an inch and a half or two inches thick. In these the plants may be set tolerably thick, according to variety. They should then receive a good watering, and be returned to the frame or stove, there to remain until

they begin to show flower, when they may be removed to the greenhouse, where they will bloom much better than if allowed more heat. Care must be taken not to keep them too moist, although they should not be allowed to flag for want of water. When the plants have done flowering, they should be stowed away in some dry place, where no moisture can reach them, and where they will not be subject to much cold, or they will be sure to perish. A moderately warm greenhouse is the best place to keep them in.

W. S.

DELPHINIUM CARDINALE.—This equals, if it does not surpass, any other *Delphinium*, in size and symmetry of plant, and excels in brilliancy of colour, which is as rich a scarlet as can well be looked upon. It is one of the novelties selected by Mr. William Lobb, in California, and introduced into the garden of Messrs. Veitch & Son, Exeter.

DESTRUCTION OF THE ANT IN GARDENS, ETC.—Having employed the following mixture successfully for six or seven years, and as there is no risk in its use, besides being inexpensive, I would recommend the trial of it by your readers, wherever these indefatigable little pests abound. To an infusion of one ounce and a half of sliced quassia wood, or shavings, in one quart of boiling water, add, when cold, about half a pound of honey or molasses. Place small flat saucers, half filled with the sweetened mixture, with short straws floated upon it, in different parts of the garden or conservatory, under shelter from the rain, and in such position as may facilitate the approach of the ant. These little creatures will soon discover the traps, the contents of which they greedily devour, despite the intense bitterness. The destructive qualities may be increased by the addition of about half an ounce of ferrocyanate of potash. Bee-keepers alone need be cautious of their stocks, for it is

equally fatal to this kindred tribe of useful insects ; but the danger may be avoided by a gauze or net covering to each saucer, with meshes wide enough to admit the intended victims, or a close sieve may be used to cover the traps. If this plan be not already adopted, perhaps you will make it known, and it would be advisable to record the results.—FREDERICK C. LUKIS, M.D., *Guernsey*.

SALVIA GESNERIFLORA.—The brilliant scarlet flowers of this plant make it a most attractive object in the greenhouse, at this time. As soon as it has done flowering, cuttings should be taken off, and struck in a moderate bottom heat ; and when struck, harden then them off gradually, till they will bear placing in the open air. Repot as they require it, using soil as follows:—Two parts turfy loam and one part rotten manure. Give them plenty of drainage, but never let them want water. A little weak liquid manure will assist them. I always bloom my plants in peck pots. By liberal treatment, I get good specimens by autumn, some of which I use for early forcing (for which purpose they answer admirably), while others come in well for blooming in the greenhouse. I never keep the old plants a second year, as I find young ones, well managed, do better, for they not only bloom more satisfactorily, but the flowers are much larger.—W. S.

REVIEWS.



COMPANION TO THE ALMANACKS. By Geo. Glenny.

WE have been greatly pleased with a perusal of this little book, which, besides containing a portrait of the author, is full of matter, useful and interesting to the amateur and florist, and we would advise our readers to order the work for themselves. We are

sorry to see in a learned contemporary a critique which it is our candid opinion was quite uncalled for, and especially so on the article entitled "Ought Cottagers to grow Flowers." He says, "To give but one instance, an article, 'Ought Cottagers to grow Flowers,' is answered by Mr. Glenny in the negative." Our readers shall judge whether this is not a palpable misrepresentation. The first four words of the article are, "Yes, if they like." The article is chiefly intended to show the folly of giving prizes to cottagers for flowers, to the discouragement of the more useful and profitable vegetables, and expatiates on the much greater benefit to be derived from growing useful vegetables than florists' flowers.

There is not a sensible man in the whole kingdom, who attends horticultural shows, but will admit, that the cottagers' productions of Potatoes, Turnips, Carrots, Onions, and all the useful vegetables are praiseworthy beyond those of gentlemen's gardeners, who have to grow everything, and attend the houses, conservatories, flowers, and plants; so that their vegetables are good enough for table they are satisfied; but the cottager who devotes his time to the few things that are useful, can and does, in almost all cases, excel the gentleman's gardener. We have been grieved at some shows to see a score dishes of fine Potatoes competing for a couple of prizes, when the worst dish of all deserved a reward, and at the same show, to see prizes given for pansies, pinks, and other frivolities, that had cost the grower, if he bought them, more than would crop half an acre of ground with good vegetables, and if he stole them, they must have cost him his self-esteem. A cottager could make his flower garden a little paradise, redolent of delicious perfume, and covered with beautiful flowers, for a mere trifle. But though his garden would be the admiration of everybody, he would not be able to show a Pink, or Pansy, or a Carnation, for a prize, because the flowers fitted for the borders and beds of a very first-rate garden, are

not the same breed as show flowers. The cottager who grows flowers for competition, must begin with plants varying from sixpence to half-a-guinea per pair, he must devote a great deal of time to their culture, he must grow (to have any chance of success) four or five times the number that may be required for show, he must totally destroy the beauty of his garden by such things as hand-glasses, shades, props, tables, and other ugly necessities, to keep flowers protected from sun, wind, and rain; and after all, if his neighbour has more costly plants, or a greater number of them, or has more time to devote to them, why his neighbour will beat him, and he will have spent his time and money and spoiled his garden for nothing. Whereas the cultivation of the useful vegetables is worthy of honourable ambition. The more he attends to them, the better the crops, and if he be beaten, he is fully rewarded for his pains, in the possession of the improved crops.

Our learned contemporary then displays his feelings in high flown language, and gives another sentence, worthy of the beginning,—“The love and the culture of flowers is not a luxury of the rich alone, and it is a shame that a floriculturist, like Mr. Glenny, should wish the poor shut out from such enjoyments.” In our opinion, this is doing Mr. Glenny a great injustice, and if any class of persons have ever been encouraged more than another in the production of fruits and flowers for their own gratification, it is the poor. We shall, at an early period, make an extract of this article, for our pages.

NOTES AND QUERIES.

IRIS PUMILA.—I have seen the sky-blue one at Mrs. Marryatt's, Wimbledon. It is a better formed flower than the yellow or purple, and though a beautiful spring plant, by no means plentiful; but I do not know where it can be bought.

PRICES OF DAHLIAS.—Is not the floral world greatly indebted to the Bethnal Green and Mile End growers for a reduction in price? All the last year's flowers may be had at nine shillings per dozen, and others at four shillings per dozen. Is not this an advantage to everybody? Are there any nurseries at which plants of other kinds may be had as much reduced? P. R.

PROTECTION FOR A TULIP BED.—I have found iron rods, bent in the form of an arch, and placed about six feet apart, the cheapest support for a covering. Let them be set true, then on the centre fasten pantile laths, or strips of wood an inch wide, and half to three-quarters of an inch thick, from end to end. A foot from this on each side fasten others, and a foot below these others. Over all this may be stretched a net, with inch or inch-and-a-half meshes, fastened down all round. You can then throw mats over all winter, and a cheap light cloth all May and June. I had seven rods, which cost me a guinea, the net was a trifle, and a coarse cotton sheeting, two yards wide, was but a few shillings. Certainly there was no walking under cover, but forty shillings, which covered all the expense, was sufficient to give the Tulips all they wanted, and on mild evenings, when the sun was down a little, I could remove the cloth altogether. **THRIFT.**

MISS BURDETT COURTS.—In answer to your correspondent, I consider this Dahlia ought never to have been offered at more than the common price of an old flower. It is far too open, petals far too narrow and too far apart, and I do not believe the National Society could have awarded such a thing a certificate, unless it was obtained by a trick. **DAHLIA.**

GERMAN, AND CHINA, AND FRENCH ASTERS.—Will some of your correspondents be good enough to inform me how these are distinguished, and what are their characteristics? I presume they all originated with the China Aster. **A NOVICE.**

GUANO.—How is this easiest applied to flower beds and borders? My reason for asking is this, the quantity is so small that it is very convenient. **A VILLAGER.**

CALENDAR OF OPERATIONS,

FOR MAY.



PELARGONIUMS will soon be gay, and the flowers acquiring their true character. Thin canvass or netting should be applied, to shade them from the full rays of the sun. Where *Cineraria*

seed is required, choose two, three, or more, according to quantity, of the very best varieties, place them on fine ashes, in a shaded situation, under a north wall, and shake them once a week; by this treatment, the seed will fall around the pots, on to the ashes, and you will raise plenty of plants. Continue stopping all straggling shoots of Fuchsias, to prevent the need of so many sticks to support the plants. Plant out *Antirrhinums* that have been kept in pots through the winter, in rich soil. Continue previous directions for *Calceolarias*, and guard against greenfly, which abounds at this season. Give a general shift to *Epacris* and *Ericas*, as they go out of bloom, and attend to watering. Roses in pots will, if carefully tended, be now amply repaying the labour bestowed on them. Keep down the greenfly and give manure water freely. Look over *Dahlias*, and get in stock that is deficient or desirable. When received, place them in a moderate hotbed for a few days, to recover from packing, repot them, and harden them off, to plant out about the last week in this month. *Pansies* will be in their true character. Look to the slugs, or they will soon destroy the flowers. Get the top and side cloths on to *Tulips*, to guard against hailstorms. As soon as the blooms show colour, exclude the direct rays of the sun, but let them have all the air possible. Plant *Hollyhocks* as early as convenient this month, and attend to slugs, for they are sad enemies to these plants.

About the middle of the month, commence planting bedding plants, such as *Calceolarias*, *Verbenas*, *Petunias*, *Heliotropes*, *Ageratums*, *Salvias*, *Lobelias*, *Scarlet* and other *Geraniums*. If the weather is mild, you may proceed with filling your beds, for a few weeks lost now will be so many weeks lost in autumn, as they will always continue in bloom till the frost cuts off the flowers.

Cucumbers in frames will now be in full bearing, and must therefore be carefully tended. Plant out on hotbed ridges, under hand-glasses, or for pickling in the open ground. Plant Gourds and Pumpkins, and full crops of Kidney Beans. Tomatoes may be planted against a south wall or in some other sunny exposure. Transplant Lettuce. Tie up early Lettuce. Salad Spinach may still be sown. Sow Turnips. Attend to cleaning and thinning Carrots, Parsneps, Onions, &c. Transplant Savoy, Brussels Sprouts, and Cauliflowers. Sow some good sorts of Peas for a late crop. Sow Endive and Turnip Radish. Prick out Cauliflower Broccoli and Celery plants.

All kinds of plants under glass will require daily attention to watering, tying, and training. Keep down the greenfly, and give air at every favourable opportunity. Vines, where not thinned, will require it by this time. Attend to tying and stopping the shoots.

ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

SEEDLING TULIPS.

BY MR. JOHN HEPWORTH.

MR. EDITOR,—Through particular desire, and many applications of a numerous body of my Tulip-growing friends, I am induced to write a brief article on the raising of seedling Tulips; and although it was intended for the May number, and was too late, I am pleased to think that, as the season has turned out so backward, there is still time for practice. I have with pleasure taken and supported my old friend and favourite, the *Midland Florist*, from its commencement, and should be very sorry to see such a useful work go down, and I am not alone in this matter. However, while I have health and strength, and so long as we have a *Midland Florist*, so long shall I take it and support it to the best of my ability, and I will endeavour to follow up the present article with others. In doing this, I have no selfish object in view, and if my instructions are carefully followed up, no florist will have to regret it. I do not speak from theory, or any other person's writings, but entirely from the experience of many years of fanciful experiments, which I have carried on through nearly the whole of my lifetime, and very few people now left have had the experience that I have had with florists' flowers. I have tried most things in all sorts of soils and situations, and therefore I have gained so much knowledge as will enable me to give instruction which will not lead florists astray. I think no one who can make it in their way to pay me a visit, now that my tulips are in bloom, would say they were dissatisfied. I have, without doubt, one of the finest collections of named sorts in

England, and as to a selection of seedlings, I think no man in the country can beat me with flowers of my own raising. Should any one be wishful to try the experiment of seed taking, who may not have within themselves every novelty herein mentioned, I will, with much pleasure, oblige them with anther or farina from any of my flowers, if they like to call at the proper season; and to those who cannot make it convenient to call, I will send them, on receiving a post-paid envelope; or in a small box, they bearing the postage.

TULIPS

RECOMMENDED AS BEING A FEW OF THE BEST TO IMPREGNATE
AND TAKE SEED FROM.

ROSES.

Rose Lac, cross or impregnate with Lady Leicester, and Lady Leicester with Rose Lac.

No. 1 Bacchus with fine Mary Lamb, and fine Mary Lamb with Bacchus.

Cerise Blanche with Rose Brillant, and Rose Brillant with Cerise Blanche.

Mountain Sylph with Lady Lilford, and Lady Lilford with Mountain Sylph.

Rose Arlette with Ponceau Brillant, and Ponceau Brillant with Rose Arlette.

For tall fourth-row flowers, take

Claudiana No. 1, and cross with the finest strain of Anastasia, and Anastasia with Claudiana.

BYBLOEMENS.

David No. 1 cross with fine Addison, and fine Addison with No. 1 David.

Reid's Napoleon with Gibbons's Britannia, and Gibbons's Britannia with Reid's Napoleon.

Sanders's Bloemart with Gibbons's Grace Darling, and Grace Darling with Bloemart.

Brown's Salvator Rosa with Annie Maria, and Annie Maria with Salvator Rosa.

For fourth-row flowers,

Clark's Musidora, also called Brown's Wallace, which is one and the same thing, and in every respect one of the finest bybloemens, when caught in its best dress. Cross it with No. 1 Godet Parfait, and Godet Parfait with Musidora.

Clark's Thalia with Violet Quarto, and Violet Quarto with Thalia.

BIZARRES.

Dutch Charbonnier with Sphinx, or Devonshire fine, and fine Devonshire with Dutch Charbonnier.

Baron's Marcellus with Brown's Charles Brown, and Charles Brown with Marcellus.

Sanders's Vivid with Charles Jeffrey, and Charles Jeffrey with Vivid.

Clark's Fabius with Rising Sun, or Catafalque Superieure, and Catafalque Superieure with Fabius.

Strong's King with the finest strain of Surpass Catafalque, and Surpass Catafalque with Strong's King.

Pompe Funebre with Brown's Ulysses, and Ulysses with Pompe Funebre.

As fine fourth-row flowers, try

President with Sanders's Fanny Kemble, and Sanders's Fanny Kemble with President.

The reason why I recommend the above flowers to be crossed backwards and forwards is, that should one side fail in ripening the seed, perhaps the other may take, and there would be a chance of getting seed from one of the parents.

It is almost a general practice with growers of the Tulip to remove the covering of the bed as the prime of the flowers is over, and the petals begin to drop, in order to allow them the full benefit of rains, but I do not agree with this practice. The beds ought to be exposed to the sun and all the air possible, but never allow a shower of rain to fall on them, or at least so much rain as will reach the bulbs; and if they can be kept entirely free from wet even on the foliage, the bulbs will be all the better for it when taken up. By some persons this may be thought an erroneous idea, but let them try both ways, and speak publicly of the results.

Some have recommended taking up the bulbs as the foliage begins to turn withered, or purpled. Others say let the bulbs remain in the ground until perfectly matured, which, I suppose, means that they should remain until the whole of the foliage is entirely dried off. Now, by the system of keeping

your beds entirely dry after the bloom, you have the chance of allowing the bulbs to remain until the whole of the foliage is dried off, and in three or four weeks they will be ready for taking up, which may be done in a straight forward manner, without any trouble and uncertainty as to the bulbs being kept right, whilst they very frequently get wrong by being taken singly from the bed. Before taking up the roots, I carefully clean out my boxes. Choose a fine day, and start with the work of taking up early in the morning, and continue until the bed is finished, which, if not more than one hundred and forty-four rows, might be done comfortably between sunrise and sunset. The next two days, the bulbs must be laid out in boxes, and frequently turned about, in order to dry, and a little sun, if not too hot, will do them no harm. While taking up the bulbs, keep near you a sharp penknife, or pair of scissors, and, instead of breaking off the stem, cut it carefully, leaving about an inch attached, and all the loose skin about the bulbs, until the latter end of July or the beginning of August. Those growers who have not already supplied themselves with cabinets of drawers or boxes, should do so without delay. Many plans may be found in the last year's volume, any of which will answer the purpose very well.

In the July number I purpose following up the present with another article, in which I shall give my method of forming a cabinet, which is different to anything I have seen before.

*Hendries Gardens, Lea Bridge road, Leyton, Essex,
late of Brighouse and Huddersfield.*

LABELS FOR PLANTS.

BY THE EDITOR.

THERE is hardly any one feature in the whole management of a garden so generally neglected as the naming and labelling of plants. First, there is a sad

failing in the spelling and writing of many otherwise good gardeners; next, there is the disadvantage of decay in the material; and lastly, the gradual perishing of the ink or other marking; the three evils combined frequently making the remains of the label useless. The last two of these evils come so gradually upon the gardener, who is acquainted with all the plants without having to look at the labels, that they are absolutely worthless to an indifferent person, and if the gardener be absent, neither the employer nor any of his visitors could make out the names. With regard to the first evil, which is far too general, and pervades even some of the floral establishments of dealers, there is some difficulty in dealing with it. The very naming of some plants from the first is wrong, and the error gets too often blindly followed by all, who know it to be the name that was originally given, and fancy they are not responsible. Many uneducated men are first-rate practical gardeners, many more are not professional, but know as much as those who have been apprenticed to it. Both of these classes may be unable to correct an error if there be one, and whatever they part with goes to others with all mistakes continued; nay, worse than this, there are many catalogues printed with the names spelt wrongly, and there is among a large class of persons an impression that what they see in print must be right. Some of the blunders are ludicrous in the extreme. Few would believe it possible that such names as we could quote from labels that have reached us could have been seriously used. But many have heard a name mentioned, and have entered it in their books as nearly as they could spell the word pronounced. The first effort to cure this evil is earnestly to recommend gardeners to procure from dealers the best catalogues of plants, flowers, and seeds that can be had, and none other. Such a seed list as Carter's, of Holborn, which this year, in addition to the particulars it always contained of the height, habit, colour, and duration of

each, has a column containing the names of the places from which they were procured. Such a general catalogue as Henderson's, of the Wellington-road, St. John's Wood, the most comprehensive, perhaps, that was ever published, comprising many different families and sections, stove, greenhouse, all the flowers grown in collections, and twice as many species and varieties as any other in the trade. But, besides these two for general purposes, they should procure Lowe's, of Clapton, for Camellias; Dobson and Son's, of Isleworth, for Geraniums; Chater's, of Saffron Walden, for Hollyhocks; Tyso's, of Wallingford, for Ranunculuses; Salter's, of Hammer-smith, for Dahlias and Chrysanthemums; Barnes's, of Stowmarket, for Verbenas; Kitchen's, of the King's-road, for Orchids; Lightbody's, of Falkirk, for Tulips; Holland's, of Middleton, for Polyanthus and Auriculas. These particular ones, in addition to Henderson's and Carter's seed list, would set a gardener up with the real names of everything, properly spelt, and all of them can be had by sending a penny stamp to bring them back by post. This collection of catalogues would form a library of reference, and if a man can but read, he might at once correct all his labels. Then as to the second and third evils, we can only get over them by banishing wood labels; and, for the next in cheapness, use zinc, which, painted white and written on while the paint is wet, will last longer than the writer, however long he may live, and are, in fact, indelible. The paint must be pure white lead, thick enough to form a fair lasting coat, and, as the pencil goes through it to the zinc, it leaves a mark that, when the paint has dried, will never be affected by the weather, even if out of doors and subject to all its changes. Zinc labels for pots may be very small, and cut so that there is no waste. Half an inch wide at one end and a quarter of an inch wide at the other, and three inches long, would be very cheap, large enough for any ordinary potted plant up to a ten inch pot, and half that size

is large enough for all pots under four inches, and a foot square of zinc would cut into 128 of the first sort, and of course 256 of the last. But for larger subjects, such as Roses, Hollyhocks, Dahlias, Auriculas, large specimens in the houses, and such like, many inventions have been submitted from time to time, and had fair trial. Out of doors, something more conspicuous than zinc is required. One invention was a metal label with a groove, down which a glass slide with the name on a paper behind it was inserted. Although, from the construction of this, the rain did not get to it, the air did, and that was enough to obliterate the ink or pencil in a short time. The damp had a bad effect, and it has become a settled fact that glass is useless unless hermetically sealed, and if it be hermetically sealed the air must be excluded, or the rarification of it will burst a thin glass. Therefore every kind of material that will bear painting has been employed, zinc, wood, iron, cast and wrought; but in all these the paint suffers in time; even on zinc the letters printed are not so durable as when written on the wet paint, for it remains legible as long as a vestige of the paint is left. A Rose label was invented by Capt. Armstrong, the chief merit of which was that it formed a band which at the same time fastened the tree to the stake that supported it. These were painted white or yellow, and the name put on it in black or coloured letters. We had some of these in use, and preferred painting them ourselves, and while the paint was wet writing the name. But it is difficult to write large enough to be effective. We have seen small flat glass bottle kind of labels to hang to Rose trees, and even fruit trees. Into these the name, written on paper, was inserted, and corked up. But unless we walked up to the tree and held the glass sideways, it was impossible to read it. Some months ago, a number of labels were exhibited made of gutta percha; on these the names were stamped or cast in relief; but being all of a colour they could only be

read close. The last labels we shall mention we met with accidentally. They were of cast iron, which formed a frame, and solid glass with the letters burned in, the air exhausted, and hermetically sealed, so that the glass formed a solid body, as it were. These were very beautiful to look at. Some were made to hang like medals, others had spikes to stick in the ground, and the prices varied with the sizes from threepence to eighteenpence each ; the smallest having oval frames, about two inches wide and one inch deep, the larger ones being a long octagon, four inches and a quarter one way, and three inches and a quarter the other. The price included the lettering, which was done to order, and it is not too much to say that they were the most finished things we ever saw in the way of labels. All we learned at the time was that they were called "Kestell's Patent," but where they were to be had or ordered we have yet to learn. However, we have wandered far enough for the present among the labels. We have advised all men to seek for the right way of spelling, and, whether they have wood or zinc, we have told them how to make them last longest, and when labels are wanted for specimens, in or out of doors, they will find Kestell's Patent (that is, if they can find it) the most beautiful and effective that have ever been invented.

THE SYNONYMES OF TULIPS.

BY J. SLATER, FLORIST, CHEETHAM HILL, NEAR MANCHESTER.

THE differences in the names of Tulips have not engrossed so much of the florists' attention as they merit, and few have ventured upon this sea of difficulties. On every side dangers surround us, and we are compelled to own that these difficulties are made more apparent when we read and hear opinions of others so much at variance with our own. I have laboured for a great number of years, and I trust to

some advantage to others, having myself felt the inconvenience arising from purchasing one variety under three or four different names; and no doubt it has disgusted many a true-hearted florist, and caused him to give up the pursuit in disgust.

It may be asked what are the best methods by which we may arrive at true results, and be able to distinguish so many *aliases*. I answer, nothing like comparing one variety with another *as soon as they emerge from the ground*. There is always some peculiarity in the foliage during the first ten weeks, which will convince the amateur more than anything else. In one, he will see a peculiar curve in the foliage, or a difference in the colour of its tips; in another, many cracks on the under side, or a paleness of colour, or the green dull. In one variety, the foliage will lie in an horizontal position and almost touch the ground, while in another it will rise almost perpendicular and parallel to the flower stem. Then there is the foliage of the flower stem,—sometimes two or three leaves shoot out at stated distances, and in some there is an indentation at the tip, as if cut with a pair of scissors, and making a kind of forked branch. Then comes the bud. In some it opens at the top, others have a redness, others a peculiar twist, others are rather of an oval shape, and some are long, as if, when expanded they would be extremely long in the cup, which is far from being the case, as a portion falls down and makes a shoulder; in others, the flower stem is of a purple hue, and covered with bloom, like some kinds of fruit. Then comes the inside. The pericarpium of one is very short and a peculiar shape at the top; in some, the anthers are of a greenish colour, in others black and short; in some, bold and distinct, rising a great height above the pericarpium, and in others the pericarpium rises above the anthers. The base, in some, opens yellow, which soon vanishes; in others, the petals are creamy, but, after a few days, bleach into a pure white; some are slightly tinged under the stamens, others on the top of the stamens, but

this is not to be depended upon; others are a shaded white, which never becomes pure. Then comes the form. Some are tun-dish shape, others well shouldered; some are short in the cup, others long; but sometimes a short cup, by covering, is made long, so that allowances must be made. Then the colour. This cannot be depended upon, as one soil, from the difference of its chemical components, will give a variety a much higher colour than another. For instance, if a little marl is in the compost, the roses will be much deeper than when grown in soil which does not contain any. The covering will also affect the colour. If too much covered, it will be pale, but if air is freely given at night and early in the morning, it will be very different. I once saw an instance of this in two blooms of a rose breeder; one was the colour of the Provence Rose, the other almost a crimson, and all owing to the situation in which they were grown. Many persons think the height is a criterion to judge by, but it is very deceitful. I once grew a good bloom of Roi de Siam, which is well known to be a fourth-row flower, and it only measured twelve inches in height. Size of bulb is one great cause of the difference in height; but this materially differs according to circumstances, and would lead many astray, were they to take such causes into consideration. Shape of bulb also varies according to the depth it is planted. This I have experienced many times. I have had bulbs nearly round, in consequence of having been planted not quite two inches deep; whilst, had they been planted from three to four inches, they would have been as long again. After all, I am of opinion, that minutely noticing the various characteristics they assume in their early stages, tends much to point out their distinctness or sameness. There is one thing which has tended to make more aliases than all others put together,—the idea that one breeder can produce more than one variety. This is a great mistake. A Polyphemus breeder can only produce a Polyphemus; yet the breaking of it may be superior to

any other ever seen, and it may also, from its great steadiness, as well as its fineness, be much slower in increasing (probably not making an offset for years) than others broken from the stock that came from the original root. Another very serious evil is selling seedling breeders before naming them. Many growers have a great dislike to unknowns, consequently they give them names, without considering that they may be named by others. Nothing will tend so much to prevent these errors as naming each seedling of merit as soon as it blooms, and entering it into a book kept for that purpose, and also putting the name to it in the regular tulip book, in the row where it grew.

Many growers are of opinion that Count Platoff, Charles X., George IV., &c., are different varieties, but I find proof that such is not the case, as all writers of celebrity on the Tulip are agreed they are the same. Some florists assert there is a difference in the foliage, but I have never found any in the earlier part of the season, though there will be a slight difference at a later period, more particularly if the plant is in good health, or in a fine state. Tulips, when in a healthy state, show it in a more striking manner than the human species. The foliage of Platoff is particularly subject to many changes, more perhaps than any other Tulip in cultivation, though, as before stated, not in its earlier stages, I find, on inquiry, that Platoff came to Ashton-under-Lyne many years ago, and got, by some means or other, changed into Charles X., I suspect because Charles X. was worth most money, not having been named Strong's Charles X. until many years after Platoff was in most collections, and when a florist, named Bowley, of some place near Nottingham, brought what was afterwards called Royal Sovereign to Manchester; then nearly every fine Charles X. was called by the same name.

Having briefly entered into some of the particulars by which many of one name may be distinguished,

I now proceed to give the various names under which one variety is known, from every writer of note upon the subject, with my own emendations, taking care to put what is generally considered the original name first.

I am indebted for the prices to a report of a lecture delivered some years ago, by Mr. Groom, and the date of introduction is taken from catalogues nearly one hundred years old. I consider the catalogue in which the flower is first inserted must have the original name. The readers of the *Midland Florist* will perceive the aliases bear a much higher price when introduced. I have endeavoured to make the list as complete as possible, and should there be any omissions or errors, I shall feel pleasure in rectifying them, as it is extremely desirable that it should be correct.

SUMMARY.

35 varieties of roses	Total number of aliases	67
35	„ bybloemens..	„	93
40	„ bizarres	„	100
<hr/>			<hr/>
110 varieties.			Aliases, 260

ROSES.

Athalia; Anna Paulina; Catharine, in 1818, price 5 guineas.
Andromache, price, in 1824, 50s.; Cassandra, price, in 1824, 42s.; Louisa Maria, in 1818, price 5 guineas; Rose Globe; Globertine.
Bacchus, price, in 1772, 50s., in 1781, 30s.; Atlas; Rose Baccu.
Cerise Blanche, price, in 1794, 6 guineas, in 1798, 90s.; Ponceau tres Blanc, in 1787, 40s.; La Tendresse, in 1802, 5 guineas; Madame Catalina, in 1827, 4 guineas; Minerva, in 1818, 5 guineas.
Dolittle; Michael de Lisle.
Duchess of Clarence; Duchess of Gloucester.
Domingo; Rose St. Domingo; Harvey's Rose; Triomphe de Flora.
Flambeau de la Duchesse; Rose Camillus.
Georgius Tertius, price, in 1809, 42s.; Fair Ellen, in 1813, 63s.
Grand Roi de France; Alexander du Roi.
Hebe, price, in 1795, 21s., in 1798, 10s.; Queen of England; Ponceau Unique; Iphigenia.
Lady Crewe, price, in 1830, 5 guineas; Lady Middleton; Mrs. Mundy.

- Laque Sanspareil*, price in 1782, 40s.; Lac, in 1830, 10 guineas ;
Laque.
La Vandicken, price, in 1772, 80s.; Prince William IV., in
1772, 15s.; Rose Hendrica; Rose Desire.
Lord Hill; Josephine; Grandissima.
Madame Vestris, price, in 1832, 42s.; Clark's Clio; Princess
Sophia of Gloucester, in 1835, 15 guineas.
Manteau Ducale, price, in 1772, 12s.; Cerise Royale, in 1772,
30s.; Ponceau Brillant; Moore's Rose; *query*, Cerise Primo,
in 1772, 60s.
Ne plus ultra; Clegg's Lord Derby.
Matilda (Pearson); Rose Ruby, price, in 1818, 42s.
Pretiosa, price, in 1772, 84s.; Thunderbolt; Rose Mervellieux.
Princess d'Austurias; Rose Unique, price, in 1780, 15s.; L'In-
teressant; La Purite.
Reine de Cerises, price, in 1772, 30s., in 1798, 63s.; Rose
Guerrier; Sysigambis; Rosetta.
Queen Boadicea; Duchess of Newcastle.
Rose Camuse, price, in 1798, 14s. Rose Brillant, in 1843, 30s.;
Rose Primo bien du Noir.
Rose Cornelia; Rose Premier.
Rose Daphne; Diana, *query*, L'Arbre de Diana, in 1818, 21s.
Rose Galatea; Rose Juliet.
Rose Provinciale; Rose Perle de Mutton.
Rose Superieure; Aldigondi Cerise.
Rose Vulcan; Cramoisa Noblissima.
Sans Egal, price, in 1796, 50s.; Rose Juliana, *query*, Julia, in
1805, 63s.; Sanspareil.
Strong's French Rose; Mason's Matilda,
Triomphe Royale, price, in 1798, 42s.; Heroine, in 1798, 42s.;
La Belle Nanette, in 1843, 42s.; La Chesis; Reine de Mau-
ritania; Cerise Triomphant.
Vainqueur; Thalestris, price, in 1795, 6 guineas, in 1798, 70s.
Vesta, price, in 1787, 42s., in 1798, 15s.; Vestalis; Reid's
No. 39; Noble Blanche.

[To be concluded in our next.]

A FEW WORDS IN JUSTICE TO THE TRADE.

BY GEORGE GLENNY, F.H.S.

THE great body of the trade interfere but little with the dealers in worthless novelties. They are advertised with flaming qualities, excessively inviting to the public, and the result is that the private growers

order them of the country nurserymen. They are obliged to procure the plants and supply them to their customers, but they are by no means a party to the wilful misrepresentation, nor can they be answerable for the quality of anything they have to buy. Nobody has thanked us more earnestly than the great body of nurserymen for our hostility to unfair dealing, and we have before us a letter from a very influential member, in which, among a good deal of congratulatory matter, he says, "If I had paid proper attention to your advice, and limited my purchases to the varieties you recommended, I should have been scores of pounds in pocket." Where, then, is the evil? Why a dozen dealers, who are absolutely fattening upon the trade in novelties, comprise the whole of the workers of mischief. What batch of Geraniums, of Pansies, of Verbenas, of Fuchsias, of Dahlias, of Hollyhocks, ever came out without some discreditable varieties? Why should this be? A correspondent, whose able article on the Pansies was appreciated in the metropolis, "takes Mr. Bull by the horns," and treats the subject very properly. We do not subscribe to his characters of flowers we never saw, but there is a tone which gives the reader confidence, and we wish he would handle a few more flowers in the same way. A journalist has no right to be squeamish upon such subjects, he must risk offending here and there one to do justice to a good many. The reputable members of the trade, who do not depend for a living upon the number of growers they can cheat, are thankful for such opinions; and here we may take leave to explain our notion of the value of novelties. If they are no nearer to perfection than those we possess, and are *not new* in character, they have no claim to a higher price than is charged for old favourites, and all above that is gross imposition. If they are as good as the best we have, and are *new* in colour, they have some claim to an increase; but if they are nearer to perfection than any we have got, they are worth the price of first-class novelties.

Suppose, then, we condemn the first altogether the year they come out, it is only because they are not worth the price charged. We may even recommend them the second year, when a tenth of the price, and, in fact, no more than old ones. But we are no enemy to high prices for good things, and we are certain, even if we had no assurance of the fact from parties best able to judge, that our selection of a few really good novelties which everybody may buy is of great service to the respectable portion of the trade. On the subject of the new Dahlias we have been explicit in our annual description of those we saw, and that were likely to come out, and from their descriptions the reader must have learned that there are many different degrees of merit among the number described. Even the society which has been for for three years endeavouring to influence the public, awarded certificates to some and rejected others. On what grounds, then can the dealers, the very members of the society, put good, bad, and indifferent, certified and uncertified, all at the same price? Simply because the high price charged for all sets the public selecting from dealers' descriptions. A lower price would indicate that they were inferior, and nobody would look at them. This may be politic, but it is not honest. It may be profitable, but it is not just. Now, of all the Dahlias we have seen, we do not know of a dozen that we would buy, and there are some which it is a robbery to let out at the price. The only flower we missed in one description of those which we saw was a crimson purple flower at Denton, then not named, and which was compact, well formed, with a good centre and outline, and which we are told is to come out, though we do not know the name—it may be Climax; perhaps somebody can help us to it; but it ought not to be charged half-a-guinea, and we presume it will not, simply because it is not new in colour, but of a class that we are already rich in, and after we have selected ten or a dozen, there are none that should be more than five shilling or two shillings

and sixpence. The great majority of the trade are thankful for this, and well they may be. We make an exception, even in condemning. Mr. Salter, of the Versailles Nursery, is the importer of foreign Dahlias, which we never see, and therefore when we give the names of a few that may be bought at the full price, and imply that all the rest are bad, we except his altogether. This year we say that Duchess of Wellington, Napoleon, Princess, and Eugenie are *new in character*. Mrs. Wheeler and Perfection are *improvements on their class*. Enchantress is a noble fancy flower. To these we add the Yorkshire flower, we think it is called Climax; and if we can depend on the Duchess of Cambridge's taste, we should be inclined to risk a flower which her grace has named after herself. There will be several yellows as good as we have, but we think not better. We believe the trade, except a dozen dealers in novelties, will do us the justice to say that we never neglect a good flower, belong to whom it may, and see it where we may, and it is the fault of the owner if any really good flower is not brought under our notice. We refer, however, to our annual descriptions for evidence of our fairness, and we are sorry if any good flower has escaped our notice.

STRAWBERRIES.

THE soil most suitable for the growth of Strawberries is a good deep loam, and where it is of a sandy nature, it will be improved by a good dressing of clay, or heavy soil. In the preparation of the Strawberry ground, the soil should be trenched two spit deep, and a liberal dressing of manure put in. The manure most suitable is well rotted cow dung. The ground having been prepared, the next thing is the plants. To prepare these, take a sufficient quantity of large sixty or halfpint pots, place a piece of crock

at the bottom of each, and fill them firmly with soil ; as soon as the earliest runners have made two or three leaves, place them on the soil in the pots, and secure them with small pegs. In this way, they will soon strike root and be fit for planting out. Set them not less than two feet apart, fasten them well in, and give them a good soaking of water. The planting should not take place *later than the first week in August*. During the autumn, they should receive liberal supplies of liquid manure, the ground should be often stirred, and the plants kept clear of runners. In fact, they should receive every encouragement that can be given to make them grow, as much of the next year's success depends on the autumn management. As soon as winter sets in, a good mulching of tolerably rotten manure may be given, as it not only assists the growth of the plants, but acts as a protection. When the bloom is set, a quantity of straw should be laid about the bed, to keep the fruit clean, or the sweeping of lawns will do equally well. For fruit for the table, I find it a great advantage to give a good thinning, as it leaves none but fruit of large size, and greatly improves it in flavour. With regard to thinning, we gardeners have a great deal to learn. For only witness the superiority of well-thinned forced Strawberries, Grapes, Peaches, Gooseberries, &c., and I am not sure that the system might not be advantageously carried out with regard to Apples, Pears, Plums, &c. as respects both wood and fruit ; for why not take off a useless branch or poor fruit of an Apple, as well as thin a bunch of Grapes, or a Peach tree ?

As with florists' flowers so with Strawberries, a knowledge of the different varieties is necessary to success. This I will endeavour to supply as far as my own practice goes.

Black Prince (Cuthill).—Raised in Scotland, but named by Mr.

C. A rather small variety, of dark colour and good flavour.

It is early, a great bearer, and highly recommended for preserving, but too small for a table fruit. I find it do best from

plants that have been forced early and planted out from the pots as soon as turned out of the house. Plants treated this way bear abundantly, having had a whole summer to perfect the crowns.

Keen's Seedling.—A large fruit, of good flavour, excellent for either open ground or forcing. To get it large, it should be well thinned, and the plants should not be allowed to stand over the second year. Treated as recommended for the Black Prince, they succeed well in the open ground; or if planted at the foot of a south wall, a tolerable crop may be gathered in autumn.

Prince of Wales (Ingram).—A hybrid betwixt Keen's Seedling and British Queen, much of the form of British Queen, but possessing more of the habit of Keen's Seedling. It is of good flavour, but far inferior in this point to the Queen. I find it one of the best forcing Strawberries we possess, and its large size and beautiful colour render it one of our most showy table fruits. Treated like the Black Prince, after forcing, it makes an excellent outdoor fruit, or, planted at the foot of a south wall, is excellent as an autumn cropper.

British Queen (Myatt).—When well grown, this is decidedly the finest Strawberry we possess. I have frequently grown them two ounces each, but the grand secret in the management of this variety is getting the plants sufficiently strong before allowing them to bear. To do this, they must either have good autumn management, or the plants must not be allowed to bear the first year. It is a good forcer for a late crop, but I do not use the forced plants for turning out, as I prefer fresh struck plants for that purpose. The British Queen, I am well aware, cannot be grown in some places, and in low damp situations, suffers much from the winter; but where it can be grown, it is worth any attention that can be given to it.

Goliath (Kitley).—A large coarse sort, of inferior flavour and a bad bearer. With me, a worthless variety.

Elton Pine.—A large fruit, dark in colour, rather acid in flavour, an excellent bearer, and one of our best late Strawberries. I find this sort do much the best from plants two to three years old.

Elenor (Myatt).—A very large handsome fruit, a good addition to our late Strawberries. I find this variety do well from one year old plants.

Victoria (Trollop).—Evidently a seedling from Keen's Seedling. A large, handsome fruit, rather light in colour, a good bearer in the open ground, and also forces well. It is not of first-rate flavour, but a nice fruit to look at.

Filbert, or Shardlow's Pine.—A large variety. This is a very handsome fruit, of excellent flavour, a good bearer, and I have no doubt will prove one of the best Strawberries we possess.

Alpine.—Although small, this variety comes in useful in making up a dessert, as, by placing a frame over the bed, fruit may be gathered during the autumn, nearly up to Christmas, with but little trouble.

W. S.

FUCHSIAS AND FUCHSIA GROWING.

BY GEORGE GLENNY, F.H.S.

IT has been our misfortune to differ from everybody, for a certain time, on every subject we took up, and we were particularly unfortunate with regard to the celebrated VINE TOWERS, which were so lauded by the great guns of gardening, and so highly patronized by the Horticultural Society; for we denounced them at once, as a piece of refined tomfoolery. After the society had wasted a good deal of money in building one or two, they were glad to remove them from the gardens, and get rid of the evidence that would have been merely monuments of their credulity. Then came the "one shift system," for which the *Chronicle* laboured very hard, and some of the readers of that paper believed all it said, while we condemned it at the outset, and for a long time had to put up with the sneers of the half-fledged scribblers of the day. But time was sure to work our triumph; all we had to do was to keep sensible men from trusting to it. Then we were all to be taught Fuchsia growing by Mr. Wood, and long and prosy were the lessons which the common receptacle for all sorts of theoretical nonsense contained from week to week, backed up by the editor in leading articles, until Mr. Wood, in his ignorance of ordinary practice, killed his Fuchsias with his superior management, and for a time we heard no more of the "ignorance of practical gardeners," nor of the "superiority of Mr. Wood" and his Fuchsia growing. Now it does happen that Fuchsia growing is a very simple affair; so simple that if a small plant were put out in the common

ground and forgotten, it would be a fine plant at taking-up time. There are some points that may be attended to with advantage, because the time when ugly large plants beat handsome small ones has gone by; at least wherever we have been judge we have invariably allowed size but one point, and it is rarely accompanied with many good ones. The points to bear in mind are, *first*, that a plant should be richly clothed with foliage and flowers; *second*, that these can only be secured by slow growth; for, *third*, the more rapid the growth the larger are the joints, the further the side branches are from each other, and the thinner the foliage and bloom. If, for instance, my plant, which has only grown a foot in two months, has the side branches three inches above one another, it is just enough to allow the flowers to hang free above the branch that is beneath them. But my neighbour's plant has grown two feet in the same time, his branches are six inches from each other, and he has no greater number in his plant than I have in mine; the plant looks thin and naked, while mine is well clothed; his plant has no more bloom on it than mine, therefore they are further apart. There is not the least difficulty in growing a plant rapidly; moisture, manure, and heat will do anything; but what are the plants fit for? Mr. Wood exhibited a lot of monsters at Chiswick, to show *how large they could be grown from a cutting in one season*, but there was no merit in that, for they were ugly, sprawling, naked, half-flowered plants, that would disgrace any establishment; and it settled Mr. Wood's pretensions to credit for the prognosticated revolution in plant growing. They disgusted everybody that saw them, created a good deal of sneering by the really practical men who had been lectured for their slowness in sleepy leaders and prosy lessons, and brought the nursery at which the great Wood was performing these prodigies into downright ridicule. A very short time after, Mr. Wood overdosed his pets with liquid manure, and they were

thrown to the dunghill from which they had derived their chief stimulant. The man was sufficiently humiliated by his exhibition at Chiswick, but he was still more humbled by the untimely death of the specimens that were to make us all ashamed of our plain plodding ways, and he soon after left the scene of his paper triumph and his palpable defeat. We are all liable to mistakes, but we have no pity for people who exalt themselves at the expense of less pretending persons, and we do not forget that the gardeners (we mean the practical men, not the white kid glove gentlemen who actually live upon their foremen's brains) have been insulted many times in the columns of the *Chronicle*, by the writer holding up one man as a prodigy, a pattern for others, a model Pine grower or Fuchsia grower, a vine tower inventor, or a discoverer of some new system, and taunting the working bees in the garden hive as "laggards on the road to science," as "obstinate, idle, ignorant people," and applying to them other complimentary terms, giving the sins of one to the whole body, who were called, among other flattering titles, "walking machines for the decomposition of alcohol." Where are all these horticultural magnates? Where are the originators of Vine towers, Fuchsia growing extraordinary, the one shift system, and monster Pines? *Non est*. Accidental prodigies were made the foundation of falsome praises, always accompanied with corresponding sneers at those who have no accidents. A man is sent up like a rocket, and comes down like a stick. But to return to Fuchsia growing. Let the soil be one-third peat and two-thirds loam from rotted turf (which is of itself one-third vegetable mould), for one plant. Let it have no artificial heat, but keep it in the greenhouse. Let the soil for another plant be two-thirds loam and one-third rotted dung, and let this also be grown in the greenhouse. Let another be served with the same compost, but kept in the stove, and you will have three very distinct growths. See that all have

water as soon as the surface dries, and other pots as soon as the roots reach the side. When the buds are well formed it is better to give a little liquid manure than another shift. It answers the same purpose, and saves the risk of disturbing the roots at the critical period when buds with the slightest check will fall off. Tell us, when you have done this, which you like best; but you will want no more lessons on Fuchsia growing.

THE CHRYSANTHEMUM.

Now that the Chrysanthemum has attained a high position in the estimation of the florist, and that various are the exhibitions that are got up to show to what perfection it can be brought, of which we may refer to the Stoke Newington for example, a few remarks on its culture may be of service to some of the readers of the *Midland Florist*. The soil I use is composed of four-eighths good fibry loam, three-eighths well-rotted manure from an old cucumber frame, and one-eighth silver sand. These I mix well together, before using. About the last week in March, I begin to take cuttings from old plants, and place them in quart pots, using the compost I have just mentioned, and plunging them in a slight heat. When rooted, I repot each into pint a pot, and set them in a south aspect, where they get the sun the greater part of the day, and take great care that they do not suffer from want of water, which would cause the under foliage to fall off. As soon as the pots are filled with roots, which will be about the last week in June, I shift the plants into quarts, cut them down about half way, and place them in the same situation as before. The tops, if struck, will make nice small plants for blooming. After I have placed them in the quart pots, I give them a little diluted liquid manure water, which I think is very

desirable. About the end of August, I repot them again into two quart pots, for blooming, and when they have begun to make fresh roots, I remove them into the greenhouse, for the autumn decoration, taking great care that they have a sufficiency of water. The following are a dozen of the best I have met with:—

Eclipse.—Sulphur, gold centre.

Hermione.—Delicate blush, with rose tip.

Nancy de Sermet.—Blush, lemon centre.

Pio Nono.—Indian red, gold tip.

Queen of England.—Delicate blush white.

Plui d'Or.—Orange.

Nell Gwynne.—Rosy peach.

Albina Godereau.—Bright rosy purple.

Auguste Mie.—Pale carmine, yellow tip.

Fleur de Marie.—White anemone

La Prophete.—Pale yellow.

Merceau.—Pink, with broad white tip.

M.

THE FORMATION OF A FLORISTS' SOCIETY.

BY G. GLENNY, F.H.S.

NEXT to the pleasure of cultivating flowers, we may reckon the gratification we derive from talking about them, and we are often surprised on visiting localities remarkable for their gardens, to learn that meetings of gardeners are scarcely thought of; whereas one active mind would draw the majority of cultivators into a society, where mutual instruction could hardly fail to be the natural result. There was a time when we saw, with something like regret, that although there were many little societies where ten or a dozen amateur florists would occasionally be brought together, there was nothing like a comprehensive plan to further the interests of floriculture near the great metropolis, and we ventured to attempt an amalgamation, by proposing the establishment of "The Metropolitan Society of Florists and Amateurs," and we so far succeeded that, in the course of

the year, we enrolled nearly two hundred members, including many leading enthusiasts. We did not accomplish this without considerable sacrifice of time and money. Our first effort was to lay down some sort of principles for judging florists' flowers, and although the society had several shows during the year, there were meetings twice a month, at which discussions were conducted with intense interest, and at these meetings it was that we brought forward our "extravagant notions," as they were called, of what a flower ought to be to make it perfect. Old practitioners had their crotchets, and various writers had promulgated their opinions, but none would bear the test of criticism, all were vague and indefinite. We endeavoured to show that our ideal models of perfection would be splendid *if they could be attained*. Reluctantly enough it was admitted by some that if a Pansy could be got of *a circular form* it would be a wonderful improvement, but it was said to be impossible. If a Tulip could be got half or a third of a hollow ball it would be grand, but it was urged that it was impracticable. Our ideas of a Cineraria forming a close circle was sneered at; and so on with all the florists' flowers. But all we wanted was, an admission that *if the several subjects could be obtained as we wanted them* it would be unobjectionable, and that admission *we got by a majority*. All the world then had something definite to try for, and the nearer a flower came to our supposed model the better it would be. We then published our "Properties of Flowers," and from that time did floriculture take a decided turn towards improvement. "The Properties of Flowers" was a text-book adopted all over the kingdom. From that moment did the raisers of flowers select from their seedlings the various specimens that came nearest to our ideal pattern, instead of carping after size and colour, and all races of flowers considerably improved. At the meetings the members produced numerous specimens showing an advance, and some of the earliest of our adoptions

are still favourites. The discussion and the general remarks caused by the introduction of novelties were highly gratifying, and for years did the metropolitan shows take the lead, and give a fresh impetus to floriculture. The society awarded certificates to seedlings that made an advance towards perfection, even if but a small one, and, perhaps for seven years, the improvement was so palpable that nothing like it was ever known before. There is, however, one feature in all institutions, the inevitable consequence of success. The very mind that brings a number together must be constantly at work to keep them together, and a man must be no coward nor laggard that can do this. He must often assume more than is agreeable to some spirits. There are many who will give no real help, who will not take the trouble to give advice, but who will let things go on until something is done to displease them, and then they find fault. They see things go on regularly and take no heed. The meetings often leave too much to the secretary or the chairman, and he must do more than belongs to his office, or the machine stops. If he does it, the very people who neglect their duties are the first to remark that he takes too much on himself. In short, unless somebody will keep things going, a society flags, and if he will do his best to make up for the shortcomings of others, he is set down as a dictator. This was our case, every member enjoyed the meetings, all of them grasped at their prizes, each wanted his tickets for public shows, each exercised all his privileges, but anybody else might take the trouble; and we, we sacrificed too much for the Metropolitan Society, when, through a bad season, it was in difficulties, and owed something short of two hundred pounds, but not much, we paid it out of our own private pocket. But having determined to retire from the chair, and take a less active part, that we might keep clear of ill-natured remarks for the future, those who were first to peck at us in that office, withdrew altogether, so that the society, which had set an ex-

ample to others, and had ruled the floral world to its great advantage and to the benefit of the trade, went gradually down, until it was abandoned altogether. We mention this, not to discourage a new society, but to caution the members that they ought individually to do all they can for the general objects, and especially to attend all the meetings. However active, able, and willing a chairman or secretary may be, it is very mortifying when he is not supported. The very life of a society is its meetings. "In the multitude of counsellors there is wisdom," says the proverb, and the most humble men in a community may often start a new and good idea. The object of a floral society should be the improvement of its members, and floriculture is a science for which the humble classes have done the most, therefore everything should be done to bring in the humble classes. The subscription should be low; that is, within the means of the working bees. In the metropolis this has never been considered until a recent period. It is not the pound subscriptions that make useful societies. Much depends on the avowed objects, because if there are to be great shows, and paid judges, and expensive prizes, we know money must be had. But a society, to protect its members from the frauds which have crushed the energies and destroyed the confidence of thousands, needs no large funds. If there be enough to cover postage and pay a secretary the trifle which he earns by attending at each meeting, it will hurt nobody. At Kingsland, a society had a shilling subscription per annum, paid sixpence per annum from the subscription to the secretary, and then there was sufficient to cover all the postages for the year. The report of the proceedings appeared in a paper; raisers of flowers showed without expense, and were awarded certificates if there was novelty and quality to deserve it; the meetings were amused by discussion, or papers were read upon popular subjects; the merits of old and new flowers were talked of, and two or three hours were spent rationally. But

above all things, the advantage of meetings is to be found in the concentrated information to be had, for few there were who had not heard of or seen something that the others had not, more especially of new flowers, and how they had turned out. There are some crude rules, belonging to a society not yet carried out to the full extent, and if a few of the Nottingham florists would meet and discuss them, they might find some of them applicable to a society in that locality.

All we have to urge upon the members is, that a society of this kind is only good in proportion to the number that can be brought together; therefore that they ought never to relax while there is a good florist not enrolled. Gentlemen might become honorary members, for they are as much interested as the most humble amateur, and for the sake of the science, which, like benevolence, knows no distinction of rank, we feel assured that every well-wisher to floriculture will cheerfully contribute in purse and person to so desirable an object. The effect of such a society would be immediate, because one of the first determinations of a member would be to buy nothing new without an assurance that it was good, and those who had good things would unquestionably send specimens. Besides which, aided as it would be by independent publications, there would be little danger of missing a very good novelty, and none of being imposed on by a bad one.

CULTURE OF THE PELARGONIUM.

WHEN the plants have done blooming, put them out of doors, in a south aspect, exposed to the sun and air, where they should remain until their wood is ripened, say two or three weeks. During the whole of this time the plants will require but little water; about twice a week, if the weather be fine. After this they will be fit for cutting down. Place the

cuttings in the open ground, and water well; they will soon take root. As soon as they commence growing take them up and pot, for if allowed to remain in the ground too long they will grow very strong, and are liable to damp off when potted. The compost I use in potting is one part decayed turfy loam, one of leaf mould two years old, one of cow-dung of the same age, and one of silver sand, all well mixed together. Be particular to give plenty of drainage, for this is of great importance to the health of the plants. Make the soil firm in the pots, or the plant will be liable to sudden change in dry weather. Then place in a cold frame, and give them a good watering, keeping the frame closed for a week or ten days. By that time they will become established. Then give air every day, and expose them day and night by the removal of the lights in all weathers, until the long cold nights commence, when they must be placed indoors. There is one important point in their outdoor treatment; that is, never to allow the pots to get sodden with water. Stopping the shoots must be attended to in their early growth, and repotting, using the compost as described. If your plant has but one stem, take out the centre, which will cause it to throw out side shoots. When these are formed repot, if in half-pints, to pint or quart pots, according to their growth. They will require shifting again in February, and each shoot should be stopped at the fourth joint. Lateral shoots will be again produced. These are laid out horizontally, so as to form the basis of other specimens. These lateral shoots are also stopped, and by this means plenty of wood is obtained for large plants the following season. The general time for cutting the plant down is from the last week in July to the beginning of August, according to the ripeness of the wood. When the plants are fairly broken again, the old soil is shaken clean from the roots. The latter are trimmed in, and the plants repotted in as small pots as they can conveniently be put into, using a tolerably good

amount of drainage, and taking especial care that all the roots are covered with mould. The plants should then be put into a frame, and a sprinkling of water given to them to settle the mould closely round the roots. The frame should be kept closed and well shaded, until the plants have taken hold of the soil and made roots round the sides of the pots. Watering is an operation which at this season requires great care. The soil should be kept moist, but not sodden. Still it is necessary, when the plants are watered, that they have a quantity sufficient to moisten the whole of the soil in the pots. When the plants have taken root give air, shading in the middle of the day, or when the sun is powerful, for a week or so, when it may be left off entirely, and air given more freely. When the plants are well established they will require another shifting, if for early flowering, into small pots, or otherwise if a large one is required. They should then be placed in the house, keeping it closed for a week or a fortnight, during which time they must be kept moist, but not wet. Then the plants will have taken hold of the fresh soil, and will require abundance of air and water until the dull season commences, namely, in the middle or sometimes the latter end of November, when they should be kept partly dry. Especial care should be taken at this season not to wet the foliage, and a little heat will be required to dry up the damp. Make the fire in a morning, and give air at the same time, avoiding a cold draught. Keep the plants in this state until the latter end of February, when they will again require frequent watering. Do not allow them to flag for the want of water, during the spring season. The shoots must be tied out, both for the sake of getting them into shape and of exposing them to the light and air. In the autumn, the plants will most likely require once or twice fumigating. This operation should not be delayed when the greenfly makes its appearance. Before the trusses are ready to open they should be well

fumigated, as, once in flower, it cannot be done. As the plants begin to show their trusses, it will be advisable to give them a little weak liquid manure. I make this by putting into a large tub of soft water half a barrow-load each of horse, cow, and sheep dung, and a peck of lime, mixing well, and using the liquid with about two-thirds of pure water. During the blooming season, attention must be paid to giving plenty of water. When the plants have come into bloom, they should be shaded, and air admitted freely, and thus the blooming season may be prolonged. Bees should be carefully excluded, as they destroy the flowers.

R. E.

IMPROVEMENT OF FLOWERS.

THERE are certain characteristics in flowers that for a long time baffle the most persevering efforts of the florist in his endeavours to improve them; but, the start once made, the difficulty ceases, and he has only to go on. In the HOLLYHOCK, the flimsy nature of the petals, which was a fault that rendered it worthless, for years disheartened attempts to elevate the flower. Mr. Baron, of Saffron Walden, one of the most liberal and enlightened florists of his day, an enthusiast in the cultivation of Tulips and Ranunculus among other costly favourites, entertained a notion that the Hollyhock could be raised to the rank of a florist's flower, and set about his task systematically. He procured some of the most promising, and saved seed. He raised many seedlings, and destroyed them as fast as he raised them, except one or two that appeared to have stouter petals. From these alone he saved other seed, and raised plants, season after season, carefully destroying every plant that did not exhibit some improvement, and after persevering for years, without in the least relaxing in the

cultivation of his favourites, or we might say other favourites, he at length mustered several varieties that were very double, very firm, and very-singular in their colour. He sent in a single bloom of each, and wished for our opinion. He need not have done so, for the improvement was sufficiently manifest to strike every observer with surprise. We advised him to lose no time in advertising pods of seed at five shillings, and the set of plants at five guineas. Thus all purchasers were fairly started with the full benefit of all that had been done, all the difficulties overcome, with nothing to do but continue sowing, not for better, but for different flowers. The only object to be attained was variety. The great stumbling-block, the flimsy nature of the petal, was got over; it only required a man to be honest enough to destroy all that was worse, and retain and seed from those which were better. Mr. Chater, of Saffron Walden, Mr. Bircham, of Herdenham, and Mr. Parsons, of Ponders and, were unquestionably the leaders among those who made a business of it, and the most successful; but there were others who could not resist the temptation to name secondary and comparatively very trumpery varieties, or such as were just like the parent, so that the Hollyhock became, like many other plants, a means of humbugging the buyers.* One man had the assurance to scribble a book upon the Hollyhock, and, to make this palatable, begged the principal growers to tell him how they cultivated the flower. But the manner in which the author treated Mr. Baron's memory, and the gross misrepresentation of his circumstances, was a disgrace to the pen that wrote it and the mind that dictated it. However, having described the work and the author at the time, and stopped the career of both libel and libeller, so as to render both harmless, we shall simply say of Mr. Baron, that he was an upright, persevering, and successful tradesman, a

* The same may be said with propriety of the Sweetwilliams brought out by Mr. Hunt, of High Wycombe. Many florists have been selling, and indeed are now selling, worthless varieties, calling them Hunt's Sweetwilliams, and we would warn our readers.—ED.

good florist, a liberal purchaser of whatever was worthy of cultivation, rarely attended a sale without his banker's book, and all through a life of industry and integrity was the architect of his own fortune. Would that we had a few such to lead the floral world now.

The PETUNIA is still a showy flimsy flower. We have raised thousands without obtaining one that would maintain its form. Even when we have discovered a thicker petal, it was soft. As yet, therefore, the flower must be cultivated as it is, and we must be content with all its faults. We have had very fine looking varieties, some remarkable for their marking, such as *Punctata*; others for their immense size, but flapping above like the ladies' umbrella bonnets; others again conspicuous for their open edges, of which we have seen a dozen different varieties at Mr. Ansell's, of Camden Town; but we have never observed any decidedly firm petal, that would retain its best form. On the contrary, though they have been perfectly round when expanded, they have doubled over and reflexed the edges so as to give anything but a circular appearance, as viewed on the plant. But there is no question as to their capability, if every batch of seedlings was examined throughout, and the individual plants bloomed destroyed as fast as they appeared unworthy, saving only the very best, and not even they unless better than we possessed before. We can imagine the Petunia would be a desirable plant if the flowers could once be obtained with stiff thick petals. Nevertheless, other properties must be taken into the account, and we ought to select the best we can find with the most of the good points. The circular form is indispensable. Colour is a great point in all bedding plants, and the Petunia is greatly deficient in that particular. But we confess that we had rather see a thick stiff petal, without colour, shape, or habit to recommend it, than all the other properties without it, because once attain this, and we might hope the rest.

The VERBENA is almost at a standstill, that is, in

point of shape. We must have that flower as round as a Phlox, because it is to be had, but not while people are silly enough to buy sets of a dozen, as a raiser will contrive to find a set, as he calls it, from a new batch, and perhaps not a striking improvement among them. It is not a mere shade darker or lighter that warrants the turning out of a new one. Our old friend St. Margaret, Robinson's Defiance, Miss Mills, and Magnificent were improvements, but we got no further. We have seen a white at Slipper's Nursery, not yet named nor sent out, that seems to us the best of the whites, and Mrs. Woodroffe, grown under glass, pleases a few novices more than Defiance, but it is unable to stand the weather. The petal is flimsy, and a shower of rain makes her sulk for a week. We never can allow that a flower with notches in the petals ought to be tolerated now as a new one, nor can we admit that any one which shows the divisions as bad or as much as those we have mentioned, or that a new one no better than those we possess already, can be worth more than those varieties which are now favourites, and maintain their places because there are none better.

The DAHLIA has been improved certainly, but we wish the flower had progressed in quality as much as the leading dealers have in ingenuity. Scores of flowers, which are unfit to be grown for exhibition until they have been poked about for heaven knows how long to open their quilled petals, are shown as seedlings good enough to entice the uninitiated to buy, and we are annually inundated with novelties which only deceive the buyers. We have always been opposed to the dressing of Dahlias, as our readers know, and it is only because an amateur is completely taken in by these means; but nobody can remove the evil until committees decide that it shall be a disqualification. Those who are most profligate of their time can alone spend it so unprofitably. The gentlemen, and indeed amateurs of all classes, desire to show their flowers as they grow, and while dressing is allowed they will never succeed in obtaining a

prize. The consequence has been that the best buyers have been driven in disgust from the field of competition by a very few, who almost made a living by going from show to show. The dressing of Dahlias has done mischief another way. It has led to the circulation of flowers which have one of the worst faults, flowers which quill instead of fairly opening their petals. In attempting, therefore, to improve the Dahlia, we must not save any that require dressing. Novelties which want this are no improvement. Those which open freely, and display all their petals systematically from the outside circular line to the very centre, should alone be saved. One dealer has tried to be witty at the expense of those who denounce this fraudulent mode of disguising Dahlias. They say there is but one step from the sublime to the ridiculous, but his first step was the ridiculous without touching upon the sublime. A man who pretends to religion and morality must have a strange notion if he thinks it a bit more honest to induce people to buy a worthless thing by false representations, than it is to dip his hand into a man's pocket and take his money. The law may not reach the offence, but if it be not obtaining money under false pretences we should like to know what is? "A B," says the honest dealer, "guarantees the following new Dahlias to be first-class flowers," or "the best in their classes," or "superior to any in cultivation," or some other such excellent character, and offers them at half-a-guinea each—the price of the very best, well knowing that it is a deliberate falsehood, and that not one in four is so good as flowers selling at four shillings a dozen. All who take his word are cheated as completely as the victim of a passer of bad coin. Does any Christian think that going to church on a Sunday, or household prayer, or all the outward show of religion, will make the fraud less culpable? But so long as the public will buy upon the word of a man who has for years been guilty of this, so long shall we stand still instead of improving the flower. Those who determine to improve the Dahlia, ought to be

careful that the flowers they select to seed from be untouched when they form their judgment, and discard all that want the crafty system of disguising by manipulation to make them passable.

We shall return to this subject, for there are many flowers capable of improvement, if those who raise seedlings will but have the courage to discard all that are no better than those we already possess, and use a sound judgment in selecting for further improvement such as are better than our present favourites.

GEORGE GLENNY.

THE PROPERTIES OF THE NORTHERN PINKS.

THE PURPLE-LACED PINK should have a large dark circular eye; well laced, the lacing to correspond with the colour of the eye; a rosy flat petal, smooth on the edge; two or three rows of petals, but three rows, if they be perfect, and form a circular eye; the bloom to be of good form and quite circular.

THE RED-LACED PINK should have the same properties, but the colour a bright red.

THE BLACK AND WHITE PINK should have a dark and circular eye, with a good rosy flat petal, pure white, smooth edge, and be without lacing, and the bloom circular.

Middleton, Lancashire.

CALENDAR OF OPERATIONS,

FOR JUNE.

THE stems of Pinks having been reduced to one, and the buds on that stem to two or three, the forwardest must be tied round the middle, to prevent it bursting. Cards must then be placed under the flowers, to hold up the guard petals, which should be laid down as they develop themselves, and form a circular outline as near as may be. Sow seed, if not done last month.

Bud Roses as soon as the stocks have grown enough to offer an opportunity. China Rose cuttings may be struck under a hand-glass, in the common border. Cuttings of Fuchsias, Geraniums, Heliotropes, and all sorts of greenhouse plants, may be struck, and struck cuttings may be potted off into small pots. Tie up Carnations and Picotees to their stakes; leave not more than two or three buds to each stem, and only one stem to each plant. Sow seed. Fasten Dahlias to their stakes as they progress in growth, and look sharply after earwigs. As the foliage of Hyacinths and Tulips turns yellow, they must be taken up carefully and laid in their boxes, but must be dried in the shade before they are put away altogether. Keep Auriculas from violent rains, shade them, and look well to the drainage. Shade Pansies from the hot sun, and water freely in hot weather; sow seed; plant out seedlings, and make new beds. Ranunculuses and Anemones of the autumn planting and spring blooming may be taken up and stored as soon as their foliage decays. Ranunculuses for show must be shaded and watered. Plant annuals in the borders, to succeed others. Greenhouse plants and every description of protected subjects may be planted out of doors. Biennials and perennials that are large enough may be planted out.

Prick out Cauliflowers from the seed bed into rich ground, three or four inches apart, to grow stronger before planting out. Sow Turnips for a principal crop; roll them in, and if there has been no rain for a considerable time, water the ground the day before and the day after. Sow Scarlet Beans directly, if not done before, and earth those already up and advancing. Another crop of Kidney Beans may be sown. Salads, Radish, Lettuce, &c. may be sown again, and plant out Lettuce from the seed-bed. Sow the early kinds of Peas, as they grow faster than late ones, and are sooner in flower; stick those that require it. Beans will bear another crop to be sown for those who like them, but this is a matter of taste. Transplant, after a shower, or after well saturating the ground with watering, Borecole, Brussels Sprouts, Leeks, Sprouting Broccoli, and Cabbage, in rows eighteen inches apart, and fifteen inches apart in the row. Plant out some of the strongest celery for early use. Hoe and weed Onions, and thin and clear them. Give air to Cucumbers and Melons, stop leading shoots, and regulate them so as to spread equally over the bed, and attend to those ridged out, and the plants intended for picklers. Herbs for drying ought to be gathered while in perfection, instead of when too far advanced. Sow Carrots and Onions to pull young, and Spinach, &c. to succeed the present crops. Capsicums, Chillies, and Tomatoes should be planted out at the foot of a south wall, fence, or bank, if not already done. Thin Turnips, Spinach, Carrots, and other crops requiring room; hoe and weed; earth up the various Peas, Beans, &c.; stick Beans, Peas, &c., and generally look to routine business.

ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

THE ROYAL NATIONAL TULIP EXHIBITION,

AT THE CRYSTAL PALACE, SYDENHAM.

No idea of the large and magnificent building at Sydenham, can be formed by those persons who did not see the old Crystal Palace in Hyde Park, to which it is in many respects superior, and far more handsome, surrounded as it is by grounds of such surpassing beauty, laid out in a most classical and tasteful manner, altogether tending to impress upon the mind the idea of a paradise upon earth, and striking the beholder with surprise and astonishment. The area of the interior is not so large as that of the old palace by nearly an acre; but it has as much more space in the galleries as nearly makes up the difference, and if the basement story, in which are placed the machinery and agricultural implements, be added, it will far exceed it. The height of the transept is one hundred and seventy-four feet from the ground floor, and nearly one hundred and ninety-eight from the basement, which is above seventy-two feet higher than the late palace, and the nave is also forty-six feet higher. This tends to enhance the magnitude of the building, and makes a far greater impression upon the visiter, on entering. The iron columns employed in the main building, if placed in a straight line, would extend sixteen miles and a quarter, and they weigh nine thousand, four hundred, and sixty-one tons. The glass used would cover an area of twenty-five acres, and weighs five hundred tons; and if the panes were laid side by side, they would extend a distance of forty-eight miles, or if laid end to end, two hundred and forty-two miles. The hot water pipes used for heating the building

would reach fifty miles. The heating apparatus comprises twenty-two boilers, set in pairs, under the flooring, at certain distances, and each pair capable of holding eleven thousand gallons of water. The two crystal towers are two hundred and eighty-four feet high, and are ascended by four hundred steps. The interior of the palace is laid out as a garden, where plants and trees of all climes are arranged with artistical effect. In the nave, there are one hundred and ten orange and pomegranate trees, some of which are nearly four hundred years old. Amongst the plants and trees, are interspersed no less than four hundred and ninety-seven busts of eminent men (beginning with Homer and ending with Prince Albert), two hundred and seventy-two pieces of modern sculpture of the most classical designs, four hundred and twenty-nine ancient Roman, and two hundred and sixteen from the Greek, forming, together with copies from various tombs and monuments, and casts of the Nineveh fragments, the originals of which are in the Louvre and the British Museum, the Alhambra court, the Assyrian court, the German, English, French, Italian, &c. These are calculated to afford the artist and the man of taste ample pleasure and profit.

Having thus briefly described a small portion of its contents I will now proceed to a short description of the show of plants, &c. The fruit department was exceedingly rich in Grapes, Peaches, Plums, Cherries, Strawberries, and Pines, all equalling, or excelling those produced naturally.

The Roses in pots occupied a stage thirty-seven yards long, and some idea of the size of the plants may be formed by stating that they were three deep and not eighty in number. Messrs. Paul & Sons exhibited a new variety, named Bacchus, the colour a deep carmine; it is rather flat on the centre, or else it would certainly be the best Rose out. The Pelargoniums were large and well bloomed; there were ninety-four large specimens and ninety-two

fancies, displaying a blaze of flowers. There were a hundred and twenty-one large Azaleas in one range, many of them upwards of a yard in diameter, and in addition, there were nearly one hundred of the largest specimens placed in the nave. There were fifteen yards of large Cactus. The Orchid stage was forty-one yards long, and contained the largest and choicest specimens, in number exceeding a hundred and twenty. The Heaths and Calceolarias were equally numerous, and included some fine specimens.

At the extreme end of this massive display, was the Tulip stage, containing but a scanty and meagre show of flowers. This was not at all surprising, when the extremely unfavourable season was taken into consideration. I saw nearly forty beds in the south without a flower,—all swept off by frost and hail. There were not more than six good blooms in the whole collection of broken flowers, amongst which may be enumerated Bloemart, a truly splendid flamed bybloemen. Headly's Sarah, a flamed rose, of excellent form, purity, and marking. Lord Raglan (Groom), an extra fine flamed bizarre, darker than Captain White, and not so dark as Devonshire. Mr. I. Sanderson, a feathered bizarre, was marked very correctly and pure, but much too long in the cup for a first-rate variety. There was also a striking new rose, Fleur de Marie (Groom), the cup long, but a fine marker, and extremely pure. I have also bloomed this variety, and it confirms my notes taken at the Palace. It is in few hands, and not likely to be plentiful for some time, but it appears so constant, that it will prove a very useful flower. Mr. Turner exhibited Duchess of Cambridge (Groom), a new feathered bybloemen, very large, pure, the colour almost black, the anthers greenish, and if it will feather at the top, will be an addition to to a class that is much needed. The white is also clear and brilliant, which tends to make the Duchess very attractive. Another variety which attracted my attention was Sappho, a flamed rose, with good form,

and pure. There were many other novelties, but so out of condition, from the unfavourable season, that it would be unfair to give an opinion on them. I do not hesitate to say that a good pan of twelve varieties could not have been made from the whole stage; and two of the first judges in the kingdom were also of this opinion. The breeder pans contained some very choice varieties, many of which never previously figured upon a stage, and have form, purity, and other good points in their favour.

CLASS A.—TWELVE BLOOMS.

1. Mr. C. Turner, Royal Nursery, Slough, Lord Raglan, Duchess of Cambridge, Aglaia, Maid of Orleans, Triomphe Royale, Dr. Horner, Blémart, Heroine, David, Selim, Sarah Headly, Polyphemus. 2. Mr. R. J. Lawrence, Hampton, Musidora (a very fine bloom), Caliph, Violet Alexander, Madame Vestris, Polyphemus, Lady Wildair, Duke of Devonshire, Don Pedro, Chellaston Rose (evidently Gibbons's Duchess of Sutherland), Vivid, David, and Heroine. 3. R. H. Betteridge, Esq., Milton Hill, Abingdon, Thalia, George Haywood (Lawrence, a feathered bizarre of the first class), Aglaia, Royal Sovereign, Triomphe Royale, Lord Denman, Gygas, Admiral Codrington, Madame Catalina (Ponceau tres blanc), Duc de Bœfleurs, and Claudiana. 4. J. J. Coleman, Esq., Norwich, Caliph, Kosciusko, Godet Parfait, Madame Vestris, Musidora, Polydora (a fine strain of Devonshire), Brulant Eclatant, Lawrence's Friend, Strong's King, Aglaia, Earl Douglas (Rufus), and Arlette. 5. J. Hunt, Esq., of High Wycombe, Shakspeare, Fabius, Violet Quarto, Madame Vestris, Triomphe Royale, Polyphemus, Lady Catherine Gordon, Giulio Romano, Salvator Rosa, Brulant Eclatant, Princess Royal, and Vivid.

CLASS B.—NINE BLOOMS, OPEN TO AMATEURS ONLY.

1. C. Williams, Esq., Aldgate, Duchess of Sutherland (Walker, a superb feathered and flamed bybloemen), Royal Sovereign, General Barneveldt, Duke of Devonshire, Triomphe Royale, Garrick, Heroine, John Kemble, and Claudiana. 2. R. H. Betteridge, Esq., Triomphe Royale, George Hayward, Violet Alexander, Royal Sovereign, seedling, Emily, Incomparable, Madame Vestris, and Shakspeare. 3. Mr. T. Westbrook, Abingdon, Royal Sovereign, Reine de Sheba, Triomphe Royale, David, Claudiana, Shakspeare, Duchess of Wilton, Vivid, and Chellaston Bybloemen. 4. S. M. Sanders, Esq., Staines, Sylvia, Sampson, Sappho, Princess Maude, Lord Denman, Duke of Devonshire, seedling, Duchess of Sutherland (Groom), and David. 5. Mr. Lymbery, Nottingham, Rosa Blanca, Bacchus, Platoff, Shakspeare, Gem, Paul Pry, Violet Quarto, and Rose Lac.

CLASS C.—SIX BLOOMS.

1. Mr. C. Turner, Lord Raglan, Queen Charlotte, Maid of Orleans, Aglaia, Heroine, and Mr. Sanderson (Willis). 2. Mr. Lawrence, David, Duke of Devonshire, Triomphe Royale, Queen of the North, Polyphemus, and Heroine. 3. R. Headly, Esq., Stapleford, Cambridge, David, Phoenix, Lawrence's Friend, Aglaia flamed, Aglaia feathered, and Royal Sovereign. 4. Mr. Bragg, Slough, Madame

Vestris, Aglaia, Violet Blondeau, David, Sphinx, and Shakspeare.
5. S. M. Sanders, Esq., Royal George, Thomas Brown, Enchantress, Aglaia, Platoff, and Bijou des Amateurs.

CLASS D.—THREE FEATHERED ROSES.

1. Mr. C. Turner, Heroine, Aglaia, and Arlette. 2. Mr. Hunt, Claudiana, Bion, and Heroine. 3. Mr. Thorniley, Walker's Rose Celestial, Rose Imperial, and Comte de Vergennes.

CLASS E.—THREE FLAMED ROSES.

1. Mr. C. Turner, Triomphe Royale, Aglaia, and Anastasia. 2. Mr. Lawrence, Madame Vestris, Lady Wildair, and Aglaia. 3. Mr. W. Treacher, Lavinia, Triomphe Royale, and Bacchus.

CLASS F.—THREE FEATHERED BYBLOEMENS.

1. Mr. C. Turner, Duchess of Cambridge, Coupe d'Hebe, and Victoria Regina. 2. Mr. Hunt, Lady Denman, Helen (seedling), Eliza (seedling). 3. Mr. J. Brown, Eliza, Midland Beauty, Gem.

CLASS G.—THREE FLAMED BYBLOEMENS.

1. Mr. J. Hunt, East Hendred, Berks, unknown, Surpass Salvator Rosa, and Incomparable. 2. Mr. Lawrence, Beauty of the Plain, Don Pedro, and Violet Alexander. 3. Mr. C. Turner, Sarah Ann, Marshal Blucher, and David.

CLASS H.—THREE FEATHERED BIZARRES.

1. Mr. C. Turner, Eurydice, Dr. Horner, and King. 2. Mr. Hunt, Rembrandt, Polyphemus, and Fabius. 3. Mr. Lawrence, Ulysses, Fabius, and Vivid.

CLASS I.—THREE FLAMED BIZARRES.

1. Mr. C. Turner, Lord Raglan, Polyphemus, and Selim. 2. Mr. Bragg, Polyphemus, Shakspeare, and Darius (Rufus, Earl Douglas). 3. Mr. Hunt, Charbonnier, Marcellus and Pilot.

CLASS K.—SIX ROSE BREEDERS.

1. Mr. Westbrooke, all seedlings, raised from Claudiana, and blooming for the first time this season. 2. R. Headly, Esq., all seedlings. 3. Mr. C. Turner, all unnamed. In this pan, the judges overlooked two flowers both alike, which were partly broken, showing a little feather on the edges, whilst the body colour was self, and I am doubtful whether the breeder of these two flowers was not also in the pan.

CLASS L.—SIX BYBLOEMEN BREEDERS.

1. Mr. Turner, unnamed. 2. R. Headly, Esq., all seedlings. 3. Mr. J. Hunt, Venus, Willison's Queen, Queen of the North, Maid of Orleans, Countess Harrington, and a seedling.

CLASS M.—SIX BIZARRE BREEDERS.

1. R. Headly, Esq., seedlings. 2. Mr. J. Slater, Ariosto, O 97, O 88, O 85, O 20, P 99. 3. Mr. J. Hunt, Pilot, Willison's King, Robert Lawrence, and three seedlings.

The Dr. Horner in the first pan of twelve blooms is not the flower Mr. Groom named, but a much superior variety, and on referring to the sale catalogue of the late Mr. Groom, I find a Dr. Horner

under a different number, which will account for the two. Whatever it may be, it is decidedly a good variety.

The admission to the floral exhibition was by season tickets and on payment of ten shillings and sixpence for each individual, and there were no less than two thousand, seven hundred, and thirty-five individuals who paid that sum for admittance, and fourteen thousand, five hundred, and two season ticket holders, who are admitted to concerts and all other fetes at the Palace, making a total of seventeen thousand, two hundred and thirty seven persons.

A very general wish was expressed that the next meeting of the society should be held at Manchester; and all communications should be sent to Mr. John Slater, Cheetham Hill, near Manchester; or to Mr. R. J. Lawrence, Hampton, the secretaries.

JOHN SLATER.

Cheetham Hill, near Manchester.

THE DISQUALIFICATION OF THE TULIP.

BY GEORGE GLENNY, F.H.S.

It will be in the recollection of most florists, that at a great demonstration of Tulip growers, at what was called a national show, a few years since, flowers with foul bottoms were placed before others with their bases pure, and that it led to a serious discussion, which however elicited the opinions of the northern growers. We may sum up their general notions by saying, that they did not approve of stained bottoms, but they did not look upon them as actual disqualifications. They set down a stained base as a fault, but balanced it against other faults. In the Metropolitan Society, which first established Tulip shows in the metropolis, there were certain blemishes which the laws condemned as disqualifications; other faults were bad by comparison, but did not condemn

a flower. In the metropolis we were unanimous in deciding that a *foul bottom, a stain in the petal, a wrong number of petals, and a split petal, were fatal blemishes, and disqualified the flower*, in the same way as a split petal or a run petal would disqualify a Pink. Such was the rule among what were called southern florists. Mr. Henry Goldham was one of the judges selected from the metropolis, and in the firm belief that he would honestly carry out the strict rules of the Metropolitan Society. The flowers taken from the neighbourhood of London were selected *quite pure*, but had the growers known that a foul bottom *was not to disqualify*, they might have produced far better marked specimens, far larger and finer blooms. However the show came off; foul bottomed flowers beat the pure ones, and great dissatisfaction prevailed. It knocked down Tulips in value, it destroyed confidence in the honesty or the capacity of the judges, and deeply injured the fancy. However we, who have the courage to attack a friend with as little ceremony as an enemy, if he offend against the interests of floriculture, told Mr. Goldham our opinion of his judgment, and he was very angry. In an unfortunate moment he "measured," not "lances," but "pens," with us, and had good reason for wishing he had let us alone. We denounced the award as unjust and mischievous. What dependance could anybody have in the censorship of a man who, representing a large body of florists, awarded the prizes in direct opposition to established rules? However the thing had gone by, and was, as well as the judge, almost forgotten. The same judge was, however, after the affair had blown over, appointed again, and we cannot help rejoicing that he has again, at the Crystal Palace, "sold" the fancy. We do not mean that he took money, but that he sacrificed those who showed pure flowers to the cupidity of those who exhibited foul ones. With several excellent judges at our elbow, we ventured, at the Crystal Palace, to denounce the awards of the first and second stands of

three roses and three byblœmens, as a scandalous perversion of justice. Two of the three roses were yellow inside, not stained at the base merely, but foul all over; while those placed second were pure, but of less size. One of the three byblœmens in the first stand had large blotches of green in the three outer petals, enough to disqualify a stand of a hundred, while the second were fully developed in colour and pure in the white. We do not wish to go into particulars, or we might be inclined to show that *the particular interest* which appointed the judge was the better for it, and therefore that the judge no doubt fully answered the purpose intended. We felt no disposition to go through the rest of the flowers; a casual glance at the stands of twelve, as we were hastening from the disgusting scene, discovered the same discrepancies. We only made one inquiry, and found that all the foul flowers belonged to one person. Now comes the question, was this downright ignorance or consummate knavery? To which—for we have no other choice—are we to set down this gross and scandalous award? Of one of the judges we had quite enough at a former show. We published our opinion then, and we have never changed it. Such disgusting treatment of exhibitors who do not belong to the clique has done “no end of mischief.” Why should a few crafty persons be allowed to monopolize the management and the prizes at every show where there is money enough to feed their cupidity? Showing has been degraded as much as the prize ring. Committees are formed, managing for their own benefit first, and secondly for those who will aid them in their shabby proceedings. They disgust all their local growers by taking care of themselves, and then (to save the exhibition as it were) they are dependant on aliens. But to get these they are obliged to make two or three prizes high enough to tempt the greedy itinerants, and judges are procured who, instead of being honest and upright, do as they are directed by their partiality, their prejudice,

their ignorance, or their pay. Let Mr. A, the nurseryman, judge the amateur's flowers, and Mr. B, the amateur, judge the nurserymen's. Mr. A puts his friend B at the top, no matter what his flowers are, and Mr. B puts Mr. A at the top, no matter whose flowers are really the best. They know each others productions, because they help each others stands, which are made up before they start. But it is useless to attempt a cure until prizes are valued for their rank, instead of estimated by their value in pounds, shillings, and pence. There is not a hack shower who would not value a third, fourth, or last prize, if it were a pound, more than the first prize in another class if it were nineteen shillings. All idea of merit is lost in the calculation. What brings most money is most sought. The winner at the Tulip show at the Crystal Palace suffered more discredit in the eyes of the honourable showers than the most unfortunate loser. None but the judges who lent themselves to the transaction would be more humiliated than the winner by such means, though, among true florists, neither could be placed much lower.

OBSERVATIONS OF A FRIEND ON THE ADVANTAGES OF FLORAL SOCIETIES.

WHATEVER has a tendency to divert the mind from dissipating pleasures, and to engage it in objects abounding alike with amusement and instruction, has a strong claim for support on those who wish well to mankind. With us it is not enough that such objects are within the reach of all, we would press them on their attention, well knowing that, however excellent in themselves, they at first have but little attraction to those who have allowed their minds to contemplate and dwell on pleasures of a grosser kind. The mind cannot remain unoccupied, nor will it continually expand itself on the same subject, it is therefore impor-

tant to give to it a direction whence it may gather in abundance and endless variety materials suited to nourish those qualities which adorn mankind. If, therefore, there be any one pursuit universally regarded as an amusement, not only innocent in itself, but also in its exercise conducive to habits of reflection, to health, and the improvement of morals, it is that of gardening and floriculture. Presuming, therefore, that our readers consider this proposition to be correct, we will next consider some of the means by which its advantages may be most extensively felt. One of these would be found in the extension, as far as possible, of the Midland Amateur Floral Society, just established, in operation with floricultural and horticultural exhibitions. It is not our intention to say anything as to the details of management. We have little doubt these at present are the best practicable. What we would aim at saying is, that if gardening must continue to prosper, so must floricultural exhibitions continue to be held, and amateur societies are necessary to prepare for these. That we have now one established for the midland districts is to us a matter of congratulation. We hope all true friends and lovers of fair dealing, and victims of trade trickeries will not hesitate to support it. To brother florists we shall say but little, as we know that most of them are fully aware of the advantages of such a society; but to those who are unable to render much assistance in the support of horticultural exhibitions we would say, that they may now have the opportunity of attending what they may justly term their own amateur society, without loss of time, and at trifling expense. There they may exhibit their productions, and discuss the properties of their favourites. There amateurs may get information of all the best flowers that will be sent out in the following season, and may rely on whatever is recommended by this society as being what it is represented. We are aware there are some who altogether disapprove of such meetings, because they imagine it will make the art of floricul-

ture too cheap. We consider this would be no fault at all, but rather a virtue, and that our readers will coincide with our opinion. But to leave this part of the subject, may we not suggest, what is indeed our own opinion, that to floricultural and horticultural exhibitions is owing, in a great degree, the decided improvement in the taste and recreational pursuits of the inhabitants of this densely populated town and its immediate vicinity within the last few years. Is it not much better for the thousands to meet and admire and calmly reflect on the creative power and wisdom of God, as shown in the splendid colours and forms of the Tulip, Rose, Pansy, Carnation, Dahlia, and Chrysanthemum, than to crowd boisterously to witness those demoralizing scenes which pleased our ancestors.

R. E.

THE CRYSTAL PALACE SCHEDULE.

MONOPOLY was never good for floriculture, and it now rages in almost every place where there is money enough to be liberal with in prizes. Looking, as florists naturally did, with some hope to the Crystal Palace Company, the disappointment among all classes of growers at the manner in which the schedule for Dahlias is drawn up is naturally great. The prizes are just made right for Messrs. Turner and Keynes, who are among Dahlia growers much the same as Rothschild among the stockbrokers, and the only advice that Sir Joseph Paxton appears to have taken has been pernicious so far as floriculture is concerned, for it is the same that has prevailed on all recent shows. Thousands of pounds change hands in a season for that one flower. Thousands of people grow the flower, and well too, but Sir Joseph only gives four prizes, two of which are intended for those gentlemen whose phalanx of assistants look after thousands of plants, and the use they make of their

power is to swamp their own customers. If the same amount of prize money were divided into ten prizes, there would at least be some encouragement for a few to try their best and compete; but what hope is there for any who cannot grow a hundred to the two large growers' thousand? But no, the pernicious advice is to take care of Mr. Turner and Mr. Keynes, and then throw a trifle to be scrambled for by a thousand other growers. Is this the proper way to encourage floriculture? Is this the proper way to get a good show? Sir Joseph Paxton, as a man of some experience in these matters, ought to know that good growers on a small scale will not enter the lists where the prizes are so large and so few. When Mr. Glenny was requested by the trade to get up a Dahlia show, he first secured the Baker-street Bazaar, as the only place that afforded space for his enlarged views. The money placed at his disposal was by no means large, but he offered ten prizes in each class, with the promise that they should be increased to two-thirds of the number that entered, and he understood what was wanted; and in the remembrance of many growers, who can contradict us if we are wrong, no less than twenty-nine collections were put up in one class, but there was only ten shillings gradation between the first prize and the second. After the great guns had secured their prizes, the third was four pounds, and the fourth three pounds ten, and so on down to ten shillings, which was the lowest of the prizes, and of course was the amount of all the extra ones to make up the two-thirds. And be it known that all the classes were supported well in proportion. Nor were the classes few or far between. There was one for nurserymen and dealers for the ordinary Dahlia, and one for fancy; two more classes for amateurs; one for amateurs growing within three miles of London, who of course could not compete against country air and soil; there was also a class for the best six new flowers let out during the spring of that year. But Mr. Glenny had to create one-half

of the money distributed by making all the exhibitors pay a stout entrance fee. This was the drawback, and although it was the largest Dahlia show but one that ever took place, each man paid his entrance fee with hope and pleasure, for each man had a chance. Sir Joseph Paxton, led away by the cupidity of certain advisers, is about to reduce his Dahlia show below the standard of provincial towns. He will have ten stands where he would have thirty, for who with a grain of sense will bring their flowers to be sneered at by the men they buy of, and to go without any but the most remote chance? There is but one way of conducting shows that will give variety and quantity. The Crystal Palace merely puts forward prizes for the hackneyed showers of Chiswick and the Regent's Park. We could give the names of the winners as well before the award as after. The people and the plants are as well known as Wombwell and his beasts at a country fair. The plants of this year the same as those of last, only a trifle larger, and half-a-dozen drapers' assistants with their yard measures could manage the judging quite as well as those who are set to the task. But our business now is with the Dahlia show, and if Sir Joseph Paxton means to render the Crystal Palace show what it ought to be, let him remember that those who have managed such matters before him have, with a tithe of the advantages he possesses, brought into competition nineteen collections of one hundred blooms and upwards, thirty stands of twenty-four, and scarcely less of other classes, and all by very simple means, one of them appointing honest judges not wedded to a clique bent on monopoly, the other appropriate prizes, viz., for each class one hundred shillings, ninety shillings, eighty shillings, seventy shillings, sixty shillings, fifty shillings, forty shillings, thirty shillings, twenty shillings, and ten shillings. The extra ones, to the number of two-thirds, are not necessary where there is no entrance fee to pay. But because Mr. Turner and Mr. Keynes shall be taken care of, there are three

classes in which they may show, one for the best fifty blooms, one for the best twenty-four, and one for the best fancies, ten pounds and eight pounds being, for their benefit, knowingly and wilfully given for fifty blooms, which none but those who grow a forest of Dahlias can attempt with the slightest chance of success. Mr. Barnes and one or two others may venture, and Mr. Legge, who with a third, perhaps only a tenth of his number, once beat Mr. Turner, there having accidentally been an honest judge; but as for any number trying, it is out of the question, unless the schedule be altered. Let Sir Joseph follow an example that never failed; let the prizes for nurserymen and dealers be fifty blooms. If he wishes the nurserymen to put up in another class of twenty-four, be it so, and let the prizes be the same. But there can be no excuse for letting them set up a second class. The fifty ought to contain their best blooms, and then it is mere quantity that enables some to put up in both. We suggest, and we speak the voice of a number of growers who have well considered the thing, that something like the following be the plan for classes, and all the classes of show flowers alike in amount, viz., five pounds down to ten shillings. We will add the cost, and then the Palace Company will see the extent of the change:—

	£	s.	d.
First class, nurserymen, 50 distinct varieties, own boxes, &c.....	27	10	0
*Second class, ditto, and open to all classes, 24, <i>none to show in both these</i>	27	10	0
*Third class, ditto, 12 fancies, prizes half the amount	13	15	0
*Fourth class, best 12 blooms, amateurs not dealers, none who show in second class allowed to show in this	27	10	0
*Fifth class, best six fancies, ditto, half the amount..	13	15	0
	110	0	0

Those classes marked *, to be shown on the metropolitan stands, introduced at the Baker-street show.

Let Sir Joseph Paxton exchange his schedule to this, and he will have such a show as never has been pro-

duced, and as an instructive and interesting exhibition it will be unique. There will be varieties shown that were never brought together before, because flowers that neither of the great guns can show will do well in other localities and under other management, and there will be an assemblage of sorts rarely seen together. Hundreds of growers will show their flowers as they grow, instead of being poked about to open quilly petals, and many who only grow a score plants will produce specimens such as the Dahlia manufacturers cannot show, for some fine flowers will not stand the poking process, and in some localities do not want it. We entreat, in the name of the Dahlia growers who show undisguised flowers, that Sir Joseph will reconsider his schedule, and not listen to the men who think it an honour to beat their own customers, and always do all they can to direct the managers of shows for the benefit of the two or three instead of the many.

FIVE OF THE METROPOLITAN GROWERS.

SOCIETIES FOR ENCOURAGING THE GROWTH OF PARTICULAR FLOWERS AND PLANTS.

It is frequently the case that societies on a large scale, in a particular locality, occupy so much attention, that people who wish well to floriculture are deterred from forming small ones. The general objects please the gentry, who often subscribe very liberally, and neglect those to whom we owe some of the greatest improvements. What is the effect? Why the large societies, that aim at an extensive show of all kinds of subjects, only feed the cupidity of large growers, and the smaller ones are shut out from all chance of success. The more humble florists should bestir one another to form societies among themselves, for they will do more good for the science, and reap more advantage themselves,

where they are all upon an equality, than they possibly could by promoting those extensive associations which do too much to do anything well. In a society of amateur florists, whose object is to promote improvement in a single flower, there is every inducement to do that one well, be it Pansy, Picotee, Rose, Carnation, Polyanthus, Auricula, or any other favourite. Every meeting is a source of enjoyment; the one subject is talked of; the merits of particular varieties are discussed; the treatment is explained; the novelties are criticised, and the real qualities of flowers are canvassed, in a meeting which concentrates the knowledge and the opinions of all. Let us take, for example, the Chrysanthemum Society of Stoke Newington, which annually increases in interest, in the number of members, and in the amount distributed in prizes. The only drawback they experience from their increasing numbers is the inadequacy of the rooms at which they show,—the only place they could find in the neighbourhood, but wholly insufficient for the accommodation of the splendid flowers and plants exhibited. The establishment of that society, ten years ago, gave the first impetus to the cultivation of the flower. It was but a small beginning, and we have watched its progress with great interest, for it affords a splendid illustration of

“What great events from trifling causes spring.”

The society confined itself to the one flower; the members strove one against the other to produce the best novelties; “The Properties of the Chrysanthemum,” as laid down,—was the authority appealed to for what a good one ought to be, and every year has added something approaching to it, and banished others that were farthest removed from it. We have been judge there ever since it commenced, and however many shows and societies may have sprung up since, the best is far from equal to the parent, though the greatest efforts have been made to rival it. The secret lies in the simple fact that the members of the original are practical enthusiastic

growers, with only one object in view. They meet frequently, to hear all they can hear and tell all they know, about the flower they delight in, and from a member of that society London gardens have derived something to be talked of. The gardeners of the Temple, in the heart of the city, the centre of the smoke, surrounded by the dust and dirt of a hundred steam engines, have shown the world that the finest collection of the Chrysanthemum may, in the season, be seen scarcely a hundred yards from Fleet-street. The Inner Temple gardens, and the gardens of the Middle Temple, under two different members of the Stoke Newington Society, vie with each other in the production of that flower; and though we are no friend to lawyers, those of the Temple may boast of having two men who know their business, and of liberally supporting them in the management of the only portion of their establishment in which the public take a warm interest. Let every little community establish a society for some favourite flower, and persevere in the one great object, the improvement of its properties and its culture; large general shows, unfair judgments, ill-adapted schedules, exclusion of small growers, favouritism, cupidity, and fraudulent dealing in worthless novelties, will otherwise inevitably condemn it. There is not a single florists' flower but may be improved, both in properties and culture; for never was there a flower so utterly hopeless, in its original state, as the Chrysanthemum, and see what has been done by one society! There was no hope of seeding it in our climate, but when it was known abroad what shape the English people wanted them, it was a guide to the raisers of seedlings what sorts they should save; and when a compact society of men, with the same objects in view, and with varied means of communication with foreign cultivators, were all striving to get improved varieties, it soon became manifest that it was no longer profitable to send over what had once passed, but what would be no longer looked upon with favour. How

much more hopeful is the improvement of a flower which we can raise in this kingdom by thousands? How desirable is it to cultivate a pure taste for form and symmetry? What efforts it will require to restore confidence in new varieties, after the annual tricks played by false certificates has nearly destroyed it? We should rejoice to hear that hundreds of societies were established all over the kingdom for favourite flowers, because we well know that it is only these that have prevented floriculture from running wild. One would almost fancy that the great showmen who carry all before them had been mop or broom makers, and that judges had taken those articles as their models of perfection! However, it is not too late to get rid of these *incubi*, or at least to leave them to the honours they pick up as itinerant showmen, the honour of sweeping away prizes that should go to their customers, simply because, after they have swept up the half-guineas for their new things, they have enough left to grow large numbers with which to beat the men they have already taken in. Let us see small societies established for every florists' flower, and a large one to counteract the trade in worthless novelties, and the sooner the better.

GEORGE GLENNY.

COMMUNICATION AMONG GARDENERS, AMATEUR AND PROFESSIONAL.

EVERY day brings us fresh proofs of the disadvantages attending the want of a free communication among florists, gentlemen's gardeners, and amateur cultivators. There is, it is true, a *Gardeners' Chronicle*, and a class uses that; but if we allow four or five thousand of those to go among farmers (which is the least that can be calculated), it must be pretty clear that not many more than two thousand reach gardeners and amateurs, so that it is not much of a

medium for the exchange of thoughts and ideas. On account of its high price, and the large portion devoted to agriculture, it is likely never to increase. Where, then, can the gardeners look for what concerns them? and through what work can they communicate what concerns their fellow cultivators? They must adopt the *Midland Florist*, for it is a work within their means, a work of large circulation, containing all that a man need know of garden information. One penny per week covers the expense. There are seventy-five thousand gardeners, who cannot but be interested in its contents, and who, were it brought under their notice, would be glad of such a means to make public what would interest others. We know that Mr. Glenny writes his column in *Lloyd's Weekly Newspaper*, but what is a column? and how often does a murder or a police case cause that column to be begrudged or curtailed? If, indeed, we could once be assured that he wrote as he thought, and those thoughts all reached us, it would be something; but it is not so, for every now and then there is little more than half a column, although thousands of gardeners take the paper in without reading anything but the garden column; and if these dropped off, they would find no trifling difference in the circulation. However we have the *Midland Florist*, a most influential and now long established work, and it is a most wholesome check on fraudulent trading, a proper antidote to the two or three works that are set up for sinister purposes. But now to business. There cannot be two minds as to the advantages of spreading the *Midland Florist* all over the country. Why should it not be in every gardener's hand? The post affords every facility; the price (threepence, or, post-free, fourpence) favours the operation; the quantity of matter is all-sufficient for the purpose, and nothing remains but for every reader, with this in his mind, to influence all the men he can to take the work, and in turn become advocates for its universal circulation. We are not among those who think it has any equal, in either its

circulation or its influence, but we look rather at what it might be than what it is. We should like to know that it reached everybody who cared about gardening. We should like to know that whatever appeared in its pages was at once communicated to the whole gardening community. There is no good reason why it should not be the means of speaking the voice of the body. The public is now subject to the constant misrepresentations of works got up to deceive them; works emanating from different dealers and cliques, who live by misrepresenting things to induce purchases, and there is not one independent paper or periodical. One is subservient to a society, another under the thumb of a monopolist, a third is the mere trade list of a dealer. The thousands and ten of thousands of amateurs and practical gardeners are unrepresented, unless it be in your little work, which has been gradually increasing for some years, and the great augmentation of readers during the present year shows at least that men begin to think for themselves, and that the more you can bring it under the notice of those whom it concerns, the wider will be its circulation, for we have met with no instance in which the showing of the book has not secured a reader, and for this especial and attractive reason—it speaks out. There is no blinking a question, there is a wholesome tone in it, there is a searching investigation into what concerns us all, there is protection for the honourable trader. It grapples with known evils, fairly discusses questions and invites discussion, exposes quackery and deception, makes bad men quail, and takes up in earnest a subject which all true florists regret—a disposition among a class of tradesmen to make inexperienced cultivators buy things known to be worthless, and this class, though not numerous, seek, by means of a prostituted press, to lower the standard of excellence for judging flowers, that they may send out twenty bad things for every good one. In the hope that every reader will do his duty, we are, sir,

TWO UNREPRESENTED GARDENERS AT CHISWICK.

THE SYNONYMES OF TULIPS.

BY J. SLATER, FLORIST, CHEETHAM HILL, NEAR MANCHESTER.

[Continued from page 191.]

BYBLÆMENS.

Alexander Magnus, price in 1772, 2s.; *La Bien Aime*; *Davy's Queen Charlotte*, price in 1837, 40s.; *Tower of Salisbury*; *Strong's Lord Hawke*, price in 1807, 15s.; *Grand Marveille*; *Alcon*; *Alexander the Great*; *Duc de Bonfleur*.

Ambassadeur d'Hollande, price in 1818, 63s.; *Prince Sovereign of the Netherlands*, *query*, *Prince of the Netherlands*, price in 1832, 5 guineas.

Archelaus, price in 1772, 40s.; *Violet Antonio*.

Bienfait; *Beauty Virginale*; *Roi de Prusse*, price in 1818, 20 guineas, in 1824, 42s.; *Lillard Violet*; *Grootmeister*; *Catrinette*.

Boadicea; *Duchess of Wellington*; *L'Amite*; *La Joi Blanc*; *Countess Berwick*; *Garde les Yeux*.

Catharina; *Queen of the North*.

Cleopatra, price in 1772, 50s.; *Violet Wallers*.

David, price in 1818, 120s.; *Pluto Superbe*; *David Pourpre*.

Duc de Florence; *Duchesse de Toscano*; *La Medea*.

Edith Plantagenet; *General Gough*.

Eminent, price in 1818, 42s.; *Brigbert's Hector*.

Europenne; *Young Roscius*; *Brook's Perle d'Angleterre*, *query*, *Perle d'Angleterre*, price in 1818, 20 guineas, in 1830, 80s.; *Hugobert's Violet*.

Franciscus Primus, price in 1772, 3s.; *Moreau*; *Imperatrice de Romaine*; *Violet Delicate*; *Bell's Violet*; *La Doree*; *Duchess de Modena*.

Grandeur Touchante, price in 1798, 42s.; *Rex Nigrorum*; *Joyn-ing's Cornwallis*; *Captain Sampson*.

Gloria Mundi, price in 1772, 40s., in 1800, 21s.; *Gloria Alborum*, price in 1782, 50s., in 1824, 31s. 6d.; *Violet Perfecta*; *Governor General*; *Director General*.

Holmes's King, price in 1798, 10s.; *La plus Belle*, *query*, *La plus Belle du Monde*, price in 1798, £100, in 1799, 10 guineas.

Incomparable; *Voerhelm's Incomparable*; *Incomparable Premier Noble*; *Rowbottom's Incomparable*; *Grand Cid*; *Clegg's No. 5*; *Haigh's Incomparable*.

Imperatrice de Maroc, price in 1798, 21s.; *Lady of the Lake*; *Valerius Publicola*.

La Fidelle Grisdelin; *Quaker*; *Violet Hombre*, *query*, *Violet Ombre*.

La Proserpine; *Roi d'Espagne*.

La Virginite, price in 1772, 24s., in 1789, 8s.; *La Purite*.

Lady Elizabeth; *La Genteel*.

- La Mere Bruin*, price in 1772, 12s., in 1782, 6s.; *Violet Triomphant*; Archduke Charles, price in 1829, 42s.; *Van Tromp*; *Caffe Royale*; *Trephemina*; *Zwart's Violet*, price in 1813, 4 guineas; *Mosaïque*.
- Lewold*, price in 1829, 42s.; *Incomparable Surpassant*; *Ursina Minor*; *Incomparable Amazon*; *Reine du Monde*; *Comte de Marson*; *Non plus ultra*.
- Maitre Partout*, price in 1783, 40s., in 1784, 20s., in 1789, 6s.; *Sir John England's Erin go Bragh*; *China Violet*.
- Mentor*; *Reine de Sheba*; *Belle Irlandoise*.
- Musidora*; *Brown's Wallace*.
- Reine des Tulips*, price in 1782, 8s.; *Sable Rex*, price in 1829, 21s. to 42s.; *Atalaba*; *Strong's Black Prince*; *Princess of Wirtemberg*.
- Roi de Siam*, price in 1772, 100s., in 1780, 42s., in 1798, 10s.; *Acapulco*, price in 1813, 5 guineas.
- Superb en Noir*, price in 1772, 100s., in 1780, 50s., in 1798, 42s.; *Lysander Noir*, price in 1813, 5 guineas; *Bolton Queen Charlotte*, price in 1829, 42s.
- Reine d'Egypt*, price in 1772, 4s.; *Numitor*; *Violet Noir*; *Overwinnaar*.
- Violet Quarto*, price in 1780, 30s.; *Violet Alexander*, price in 1782, 40s., in 1797, 3 guineas.
- Violet Blondeau*, price in 1772, 24s.; *Ne plus ultra*; *Queen of Wirtemberg*.
- Violet Rougeatre*, price in 1782, 20s.; *Violet Imperial*; *Desiderata*.
- Washington*, price in 1794, 8 guineas; *Rodney*, price in 1708, 21s.; *query*, is not *Rodney (Superb)*, in 1784, 10 guineas, the original name.

BIZARRES.

- Abaddon*, price in 1787, 14s.; *Fleur de Parade*.
- Albion*; *Potter's Lord Fortesque*.
- Bacchus*; *Andrew Marvel*; *Monarch*.
- Bonaparte*, price in 1798, 5 guineas; *Tippoo Saib*.
- Chancellor*; *St. Bernard*.
- Captain White*, price in 1798, 5 guineas, in 1813, 3 guineas; *Abercrombie*; *Sanzio*; *San Joe*; *San Josef*, price in 1818, 3 guineas; *Strong's Captain Black*; *Strong's Admiral White*; *Strong's Old Admiral White*; *Gabel's King*.
- Carlo Dolci*, price in 1835, 63s.; *Duke of Bedford*; *Earl Munster*; *Lady Collingwood*; *Epaminondas*; *Vandyke*.
- Carter's Leopold*, price in 1818, 20 guineas; *Croesus*, price in 1818, 5 guineas; *Strong's No. 1*.
- Catafalque*, price in 1772, £20, in 1780, 7 guineas, in 1798, 5 guineas; *Castrum Daloris (when flamed)*, price in 1772, £15, in 1780, 42s., in 1798, 70s.

- Catafalque Superieure*, price in 1798, 5 guineas; *Surpasse Pompe Funebre*; *Rising Sun*.
- Catafalque Surpasse*, price in 1798, 10 guineas; *Earl St. Vincent*; *Grandeur Superbe*, price in 1788, 4 guineas; *Drinkwater's Wm. Pitt*; *Pope's Catafalque*.
- Cato*, price in 1798, 50s.; *Earl Stanhope*; *Claudius Julius Brutus*; *Gabel's Lord Nelson*; *Suwarrow*; *Parnassus*; *General Blucher*.
- Charbonnier*, price in 1772, 5 guineas, in 1780, 3 guineas; *Charbonnier Noir*; *Austen's Emperor Alexander, query*, *Emperor of Russia*, price in 1818, 63s.; *Cenotaphium*, price in 1798, £20, in 1799, 10 guineas; *Mason's Black Catafalque*.
- Coggleshall Hero*, price in 1829, 4s.; *Archduke Charles*; *Prince Henry*.
- Count Platoff*, broken in London, in 1810, generally called *Bartlett's Platoff*; *Garnett's Waterloo*, 1816; *Page's George IV.*, about 1818; *Strong's Charles X.*, about 1820, price in 1832, 15s.; *Duke of Lancaster*, 1822; *Defiance*, about 1828; *Le Conquerant*, 1829; *Royal Sovereign*, 1830, price 5 guineas; *Victory*, about 1835, price 50s.; *Gabel's Glory*; *Commander, query*, *Commander-in-Chief*, price in 1818, 10 guineas; *Trafalgar*, price in 1818, 63s.; *Strong's Lord Hill*; *Neagle's Emperor*; *Acre*.
- Davy's Trafalgar*, price in 1818, 63s.; *Duke of Clarence*, price in 1824, 63s.; *Guido*; *Black Duke*.
- Duc de Savoy*, price in 1829, 1s. 6d.; *Spencer's Grand Duke*, price about 1836, 42s.
- Duke of Hamilton*; *Richard Cobden*.
- Emperor of Austria*, price in 1824, 63s.; *Goldham's Reform*.
- Emperor Charles*; *Passe Perfecta*.
- Gordianus*; *Mason's Yellow*; *Fine and Black*.
- Kouli Khan*; *Waterloo*; *Wood's Plantagenet*.
- Leonatus Posthumus*, price in 1832, 42s.; *Glencoe*, price in 1839, 63s.
- Lord Milton*; *Lord Stanley*; *Hannibal*.
- Mezrain*, price in 1788, 4s.; *Globe Bizarre*.
- Ne plus ultra*; *Hector*, introduced in 1770, price in 1829, 63s.; *Milo Superbe*, price in 1798, 50s.; *Henri le Grande*; *Henriette*.
- Old La Cantique*, price in 1772, 21s.; *Badger*.
- Optimus*; *Newington Beauty*; *General Palafox*; *Ali Pacha*.
- Passage of the Alps*; *Simphon*.
- Polyphemus*, price in 1827, 10 guineas; *Goldham's Albion*; *Goldham's Ulysses*; *Nourri Effendi*, price in 1837, 100 guineas; *Brown's Hamlet*; *Brown's Thomas Brown*. *Query*, is not *Sheet Anchor*, *Polyphemus*? if so, it will be the proper name.
- Phoenix*; *Glory of Holland*.
- Reis Effendi*; *Surpasse Polyphemus*.

Shakspeare, price in 1832, 20 guineas; Edmund Kean, in 1835, price 15 guineas; Garrick, in 1835, 8 guineas; Leonidas; Rembrandt, said to be the same, if so, it is the proper name, as the price, in 1830, was 10 guineas.

Sir Sidney Smith, price in 1802, 5 guineas; *Magnum Bonum*, price in 1831, 40s.; *Franklin's Washington*, price in 1804, 15s.; *Trebixond*; *Demetrius*.

Sultana; *Booth's Crown Prince*.

Surpasse la Cantique, price in 1780, 30s.; *Flame de Guard*.

Turner's Bizarre; *Turner's Black Prince*.

Viola qui Surpasse, price in 1780, 50s.; *Leopoldini*, price in 1787, 6 guineas; *Grand Touchant*, price in 1835, 40s.; *Don Miguel*; *Duchesse de Modena*.

Wolstenholme's Bizarre; *Incomparable Primus*.

Wright's 63; *Incomparable Bizarre*.

SHOWS AT CREMORNE GARDENS.

SOME years ago we conducted a show at this place, on the same day that the people of Chiswick held theirs; not that we had the presumption to appoint ours on that day, but that they, treating us with the greatest contempt, although our days of show for the whole year were advertised constantly, appointed theirs on our day. Nothing daunted, we refused to change ours, and made up our mind that we would break a lance with them, and see who was the best man. We had already engaged the best three bands months beforehand, and knowing all eyes would be on us, we were determined to carry out the improvements we had endeavoured in vain to hammer into the council. The employment of police to watch the productions, the giving of refreshments to the exhibitors, the awarding of more liberal prizes and in greater number, the adoption of subjects that a greater number could show, the distribution of the prizes on the spot, the clearing of the tents before the exhibitors removed their productions,—all this, which we had goaded the Horticultural Society to adopt over and over again, we carried out on that

memorable day. Our tent, new, and from Benjamin Edgington's, was four hundred feet long, and broad enough to hold four rows of tables, and was crammed with the best productions ever seen at an exhibition, far excelling anything that had been done at Chiswick. The grounds were crowded with fashionables, and hundreds of the fellows of the society, who attended the literally deserted gardens at Chiswick, ordered their carriages to Cremorne, and were not scrupulous to acknowledge that Chiswick that day was deplorable, both in productions and company. More than two hundred pounds worth of plate was distributed, nearly as much in money, and a considerable number of awards were chosen in medals. So far Cremorne has been famed for the best show that ever took place near London. The present year it will be equally famed; but instead of a tent four hundred feet long, we have an elegantly designed and built pavilion, nearly the same length, and twice as broad. The length, we believe, is nearly one hundred and thirty yards, and the breadth thirty-three yards. The ground is occupied with neat gravel walks and flower beds, forming a complete American garden, in which noble groups of Rhododendrons, Azalias, Araucarias, Deodars, and choice specimens of the finest hybrids in the world contribute to make up one of the finest floral scenes ever witnessed. Messrs. Waterer and Godfrey have picked over their extensive nursery for subjects worthy of the occasion, and many thousands of plants have been removed to form this metropolitan paradise. The pavilion will therefore contain the finest collection of American plants in the world, and afford the floral community an opportunity of witnessing, at one view, the best specimens of all the varieties in cultivation, arranged in beautiful order. Those who remember Mr. Waterer's American exhibition in the King's-road, may judge what has been done on so much larger a scale. Those who have seen the American gardens at Chiswick and the Regent's Park, may remember,

that however fine some of the specimens were, there was but little to boast of in the order of planting, the arrangement of the beds, or the beauty of design. It is therefore saying but little for the garden at Cremorne to say that it is infinitely superior in every point to the best of those at Chiswick and the Regent's Park. It is perhaps so far a-head of these as to be set down as the first attempt worthy of general approval, to build a real temple of Flora, and to form under its transparent roof a garden worthy of the name. We, who have been to all the American nurseries in this country, and seen some of the finest specimens, in private establishments as well as at the growers for sale, have seen nothing to such great advantage. For all June and July the splendid display of American plants in this huge temple will, with all the advantages of shade and ventilation, be open to the floral world, and the temple itself form much such a contrast to previous erections of canvass and wood, as the first Crystal Palace did to the conservatories built before it. This garden will of itself form the best floral exhibition ever witnessed.

G. G.

THE MANAGEMENT OF SEED TULIPS.

BY MR. J. HEPWORTH.

MR. EDITOR,—By this time we may suppose that most of the fancy will have taken up their choice beds of Tulips, with the exception of a few varieties which may have been impregnated to take seed from. Some parties I know are trying the sorts I mentioned as being a few of the best for the purpose. Some may be trying other varieties which they fancy are better, and it is very likely they may be trying some very choice and scarce varieties of which they may not possess, perhaps, more than one blooming bulb. Others may be a little more cautious about risking

their best things, fancying that they may lose or otherwise spoil the fine strain of the flower, which is not at all unlikely, providing the bulbs are allowed to remain in the ground all the time the seed is feeding and ripening. To do away with such fears as either losing the bulbs or injuring the strain of the flowers, I particularly recommend the plan of taking up the bulb from the root, and not merely for preserving the bulb, but also for strengthening the fibrous roots, that good, bold, well fed seed may be obtained, which cannot be had if the bulb remain in the ground, and for this simple reason, which everyone must know, if he is at all acquainted with the nature of the thing:—the roots, at this time, require some stimulus, to refresh and give them strength sufficient to supply the stem and feed the seed. It is a sad mistaken notion to fancy that, by allowing the bulb to remain with the root, during the time the seed is feeding, it is of use, and a help to the stem and seed-pod; it is quite the reverse, for instead of supporting the seed, it is a means of weakening and keeping back the vigour of the roots, which would go to the seed vessels much more freely if the bulb were out of the way. Now this is no imaginary idea. I have been trying experiments of this sort for years, and have proved, as I think, that it is best to take the bulb away, though not exactly at the same time the general stock is taken up, but allow them to remain until the first or second week in July, as they will not ripen so soon as those which have had the seed pods taken off at the fall of the bloom. Indeed, if you allow the bulb to remain undisturbed until the middle of July it will still appear young, and very likely rather small, on account of part of the nourishment going to feed the seed pod. However by that time the bulb should be taken off, and to do that nicely is rather a delicate operation, and requires a steady hand. Carefully remove the mould for about six inches round, so as to get fairly at the bulb, and take off the old skin which may be tight round it and the stem; then, with a small

pointed penknife, cut the bulb off the stem, and cover up the root again. In two or three days after, make a drill, six inches deep, about a foot from the stem, all round the roots, and pour some manure water into it. Repeat this three or four times, as the mould may take it; then fill up and level the surface. This done, occasional waterings with soft water will be quite sufficient to carry it through.

The liquid I have found to answer best is rain water, or water from a pond, mixed with a sufficient quantity of fresh cowdung, gathered from a field where the cows are feeding on grasses alone, to give it a good colouring. To protect the stem, before commencing the operation of taking away the bulb from the roots, put down firmly two sticks, about six inches from the roots, with the stem in the centre; then take a piece of woollen or worsted string, double it in two, tie it first to one of the sticks, nearly up to the height of the seed pod, then tie a knot in the centre, place the stem close up to the knot, and tie another knot pretty tight to the stem, so as to prevent it working about. There should be another stick, to support a cap or hand-glass over the seed, for keeping off rain, fogs, &c. This is one of the most important things to be attended to, or all your other labour will be thrown away; one shower of rain or one night's fog may spoil all your seed, therefore, in showery weather, care must be taken to keep off the rain, from the time the flowers are impregnated until the seed is ripe. The covers should be put on every evening before sunset, and taken off early in the morning, providing the atmosphere is clear and dry, not otherwise. The seed pod of a Tulip will stand any amount of drought or heat of the sun, but the least wet will cause them to damp off, even after the pod turns brown and appears to be almost ripe. A very few hours will destroy the germ of every seed, if once it gets damp. The roots, if kept moderately moist, will sufficiently supply the stem and seed vessels, without any other means of supply. If the

weather prove favourable, the seed will get sufficiently ripe about the middle, or not later than the third week in August; but you must watch for the top of the pods bursting open, which will be a sufficient guarantee that it is all safe and ready to reap. Instead of breaking off or opening the pod, cut it off, leaving about six inches of the stem attached; tie a little thin paper or a small paper bag round the pod, hang it up in a dry room, and let it remain undisturbed till the latter end of October; then take it down, clear out the seed from the husk, put it in a paper bag, and write upon the bag the name of the variety it was taken from, and also what it was crossed or impregnated with, and then hang it up again in the driest part of the room, to remain until the proper time for sowing.

My directions for sowing, &c., I will give in due course. I had thought of giving my friends my notions of a chest of Tulip drawers, the sorts, colour of bags, &c., for storing away the bulbs; but having trespassed quite far enough, at one time, on the pages of your valuable little work, I will reserve my other remarks for the August number, which will be quite soon enough, as the bulbs taken up and left with the dried skin about them, will be all the better for remaining in that state, *if dry*, until the middle of August.

*Hendries Gardens, Lea Bridge-road,
Leyton, Essex.*

PREPARING FOR WINTER.

WE are very often, at this season of the year, liable to forget or neglect our plants for the forthcoming winter or spring. But a really good gardener will always take time by the forelock, and while the glorious beauties of summer are still with us, he will give every attention to providing as good a show as

he can for a duller season. There are many things which at this season may appear trifling, but in winter will be found really useful. Scarlet Geraniums, if struck early in July, and kept growing till they have filled a pint pot with roots, and the flower buds are picked off till October, may be had very showy in the greenhouse up to Christmas, or later. Treated in the same way, many of the shrubby Calceolarias will answer equally well. I find *C. amplexicaulis* do well for this purpose, as a species, and as varieties Indian Chief, Ayeana, and Kayii. Verbenas, too, may be had very pretty for greenhouse decoration, at a later season. True, there will not be much bloom, but what there is will be useful. With regard to Verbenas not keeping through the winter, a complaint we often hear, it is in most cases owing to the plants not being struck early enough. They ought to be struck early in June, potted into halfpint pots, and stopped till they get nice bushy little plants. In this way but very few plants of a variety will be required in most places, as they will give an immense number of cuttings in the spring for bedding purposes, and be it remembered, spring-struck cuttings will be far superior to those struck in autumn. But to return to plants for winter. Of Cinerarias, a few of the strongest offsets or the strongest seedlings should now be selected, and set growing in a spent hotbed, where they can receive liberal treatment and be kept from the direct rays of the sun. By getting these on early, they may be had in flower nearly the whole of the winter, and at no season are Cinerarias so valuable or look so well as during the dull months of winter or early spring. Primulas should also be now set growing for early blooming, or we might say late blooming, as they may be had very good at Christmas. They will do well plunged in a spent hotbed, along with Cinerarias. Amongst hardy plants for a greenhouse, there is the Christmas Rose (*Helleborus Nigra*). Plants potted in the autumn, and placed in the greenhouse, look well about Christmas. I saw a beautiful

lot about that time last year, at which season they were really valuable. Then there is the hardy ever-green shrub, *Laurestinus* (*Viburnum tinus*), may be potted, and kept plunged in the open ground during the summer months, and when winter approaches, removed into the greenhouse, where it will bloom to much better perfection than it can possibly do in the open air. Add to these *Jasminum nudiflorum*, than which we do not possess a better hardy winter-flowering plant. It is very beautiful on the open wall, but in the greenhouse it is a really good thing for winter decoration. In the above selection I have taken care to name nothing but what may be had by all, and grown with the greatest ease. By the by, I forgot to mention the *Erica ventricosa nana*, a hardy heath of great beauty. Taken up and potted, it does well as a winter-blooming greenhouse plant.

W. S.

EDGINGS FOR GARDENS.

How anybody can seriously recommend slates or bricks, or wood, when so many plants offer us a natural edging, without the aid of the mechanic, we are at a loss for a guess. So far as we are concerned, we should avoid everything but vegetation; yet Mr. Johnson seriously tells us that "for the kitchen garden and *all other places where neatness only need be considered* slates set edgeways form the best edgings;" why or wherefore he does not tell us; but there is something very objectionable in all mechanical contrivances that can be avoided. We object to nine-tenths of the supporters to climbing plants, on account of their unnatural appearance; but for the edgings of beds and borders it is conspicuously so. We are told by the same authority that box is objectionable, *because it harbours vermin*. If this is to be an objection, it applies to everything that is grown. Now

the kitchen garden should be made useful in every way, and the edges offer an excellent locale for Strawberries, where the sun can reach them, and for Parsley where the full heat of it does not reach. We may, however, be told that "Strawberries harbour vermin." We know they do. Place them where you may, it is one of the evils we have to contend with that snails, slugs, and grubs assail our crops. What excuse, then, does their "liking" for particular things afford for not growing them. There are many good reasons for choosing Strawberries for edgings; in the first place, being next the path they are easily kept clear of runners, and if we do not want the increase, the removal of these assist the fruit very much. Parsley can also be kept always neat, and we know it is always useful. But these apply chiefly to the kitchen garden, where we confess we should not recommend Box, not because it harbours vermin, because if the gardener knows his business, he could clear the whole place of snails and slugs, if it had been neglected till they swarmed; but we should object to it because it is useless, and in the kitchen garden nothing useless should be grown. As, however, the advice to adopt slate edgings "in other places where neatness only need be considered," it is to be applicable to the flower garden, and used for the beds round the mansion, where neatness must be preserved in everything; and there we place Box edgings first on the list. You can plant it in any form, circular, angular, or straight, and there is nothing equals it in appearance. The objection raised upon the ground of its harbouring vermin, can only be entertained by lazy men; but it wants attention. It will not bear constant sweeping with half-worn-out brooms, wielded by a common labourer, and therefore the gardener must see that incompetent persons are not set to sweep the gravel walks. In geometrical flower gardens there is no plant to equal Box for edgings. If we must have recourse to artificial edgings, they must be formed of very short pieces, or

circles and acute angles could not be formed. Glass, of the same colour as common wine bottles, might be formed, somewhat ornamental, and the inconspicuous nature of it would render it tolerable; but it would fall very short of well-planted Box in appearance. In fact, there is nothing that could make up for the loss of Eox, if Box can be had. The next best edging is white Arabis, which keeps green all the winter, and blooms all the spring. The only objection to this is, that it spreads so fast it wants trimming twice a year. It grows too wide, but in spring it is one mass of flower, as white as snow, and it looks well the whole year round, even when there is no flower on it. The old-fashioned edging of Thrift is not half so good. It looks untidy, wants constant mending, for the plants go off very suddenly, without any apparent cause, and therefore will be full of gaps almost the first three months. At the Chiswick Gardens there was an edging of Gentianella, which was gay when in bloom, but it was very unequal in width, and had many gaps. The common hardy Heath is a pretty good broad edging. Next to Arabis give us the Daisy, of which now there are many varieties, but for edgings they should be all of a colour. These may, like Arabis, be planted very small, in single-hearted roots, and as they get wider and spread, trim them in. For large borders some of the dwarf Irises may be employed. They, like the others, will spread, but once planted well, there is no danger of gap. They will require to be trimmed once a year, by taking away those that have spread out of their rank. In a dry but shaded situation we once saw an edging of the old common Auricula, and, except that there were gaps here and there, they looked well; and in a coach drive up to a mansion we have seen an edging of Polyanthus, but not well kept up. Primroses would be quite as good in a shady situation. All these things are very well for edgings on a large scale, but there is nothing like Box for neatness, and the excuse about harbouring vermin is about as reasonable as objecting

to trees because they harbour birds. The making of edgings is a business that few properly attend to, but it is so essential to their well being that they get properly planted, that it shall form the subject of an article.

DIANTHUS.

BEDDING PLANTS.

As these will now be growing fast, they will require constant attention to training and pegging down, as unless this is attended to the beds have a rough straggling appearance, at least with a great many plants that are used for this purpose. Of these, Verbenas are very apt to run over the edges of the bed, or when a large mixed bed is planted one colour will run into the other, and completely spoil the effect, while if carefully pegged down, they not only fill the bed better, but receive considerable support from the roots that are formed at the joints. Petunias, when left to themselves, look very bad, and a little wind or rain considerably damages a bed, if pegging is not attended to. *Phlox Drummondii* should also be well looked after in this respect. There are also several *Geraniums* which should be constantly pegged; for instance, *Mangle's Variegated* it is impossible to have good if not attended to in this particular. The pink and white Ivy leaves are also much improved by pegging. The *Heliotropes* and *Alyssums* require well pegging to have a proper effect. In fact, all plants that have anything of a straggling habit should be looked to. But of course such things as *Tom Thumb Geraniums*, or *Calceolarias*, are better without pegging. With regard to *Calceolarias*, there are many of them that should be properly supported with sticks, as, if left to themselves, the weight of the trusses of bloom will break them down and spoil the flowers, particularly in wet weather. As instances of this, take such sorts as *Amplexicaulis*, *Kentish Hero*, and

Superb. While speaking of bedding plants, I may mention that beautiful annual, *Portulacca Thellusonii*. I have seen this, in more than one instance, really beautiful.

W. S.

THE ENEMY AMONG THE ROSES.

ONE of your subscribers, whom I have known several years as a lover of flowers, in the town of Market Rasen, has kindly lent me the April number of the *Midland Florist*, in which mention is made of a small dark-coloured caterpillar, which is found at the bottom of a round hole, bored into the pith of rose trees, where a branch has been cut off. I have noticed this caterpillar frequently, for several years past. Growers of Roses, therefore, need not be alarmed. It is no new enemy.

I regret that I am not naturalist enough to give you its history. It has now (the middle of April) issued from its hole, and is destroying the young growth of the trees. Some years, I have observed the whole of the first shoots of certain trees headed by this caterpillar. I think any one who has half-a-dozen Rose trees may easily find our little enemy. Its history would be very acceptable. I do not find it described in the few books I have at hand.

WALTER STOCKDALE.

Linwood Rectory, April 30, 1856.

FLOWERS, ETC. RECEIVED SINCE OUR LAST REPORT.

C. S., *Berwickshire*.—PANSIES.—*Belted Will*, only a second-rate flower; the *Baron* is worthy of a place in most collections, yellow ground, deep plum colour, noble eye. *Ariadne* is the best of the dark flowers, but not superior to those already out. The colour of the lower petal of 755 is not in accordance with the top, otherwise a good flower. *Georgy* is too similar to Duke of Perth; it is the best. The others too damaged to form any opinion of.

J. R., Wisbeach.—Your Pansy No. 7 is good for nothing. No. 2 is worse; and the remainder are only second-rate. Try if you can raise plants from seed from Norfolk Hero, it seems an improvement.

R. S., Halifax.—How foolish of you to send your flowers without any protection round them. They were only put in an envelope, and when they reached us they were totally spoilt.

J. THOMPSON, Riddings.—Your Pelargonium is no seedling, but simply the old Maid of Orleans.

CALENDAR OF OPERATIONS,

FOR JULY.

TRAIN the branches of Dahlias out of each others way, and take the neighbouring buds off any branch that has a promising flower. Geraniums may be cut down and the cuttings put in, if you want young ones. Propagate Pansies from small side shoots whenever you can take them, and plant out seedlings that are large enough in rich and strong soil, but not too heavy. Regulate the number of buds on Carnations and Picotees, and tie up the advanced ones as directed for Pinks, only that when you have tied them, you may tear down the calyx from the top to the tie, and thus release the petals all round alike. Prepare the card, and regulate the petals as they perfect themselves. Chrysanthemums may be grown dwarf by taking off cuttings now. The old roots may be planted in the ground to grow for young stock, and flower, if they will, in the borders. Auriculas must be protected from heavy falls of wet, and the drainage of the pots occasionally examined, and dead leaves removed. Propagate Pinks by pipings, if not done last month. Annuals, sown late, must be thinned, if too thick, and the plants pulled out may be set anywhere. Perennials of all kinds may be planted out from seed pans or seed beds.

Put sticks to Scarlet Beans. Earth up Potatoes. Continue to sow Lettuce, Turnip Radishes, and salads of all sorts. Train the shoots of Cucumbers and Melons so as to be out of each others way, give the fruit room, administer water, give proper air, plant out some more on ridges under hand-glasses, give the melons but little water. Plant a main crop of Celery. Winter Greens, Broccoli, Savoys, Borecole, Brussels Sprouts, Red Cabbage, Scotch Kale, &c. should be planted after dripping weather. Sow Winter Spinach. Top Beans in flower, and earth up others. Sow Peas once in three weeks, as long as you wish to chance a crop. Turnips may be sown after showery weather. Hoe those already up, thinning them to six inches apart. Transplant Leeks nine inches apart, in rows.

ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

MANAGEMENT OF LAWNS.

BY THE EDITOR.

IN all well-kept garden establishments lawns not only form the principal features, but they occupy the larger portion of time and manual labour. Whatever is calculated to lessen this, or to make it more effective, is of the highest importance to the gardener. We remember well reading a report of the transactions for the year of the Sheffield Botanical Gardens, which had been in some measure starved for want of public support, and rendered very unsatisfactory to the curator, through the extremely limited means at his command. The shareholders were congratulated on the improved appearance of the gardens, in consequence of adopting a mowing machine, instead of ordinary mowing. The improvement was manifest in the state of the gardens, and the saving was palpable in the accounts themselves. The only objection to the use of the machine, so far as we have heard, was, that if there were any hollows in the lawn, the work was not done complete; but this only applies to such hollows as would also baffle all attempts to do justice with a scythe, because the machine will work up and down hill, and on the side of a hill, as well as on level ground. It will follow in and out of all hollows large enough to take a roller, and everybody must know that inequalities that cannot be rolled cannot be kept in order at all. Ruts like those made with cart wheels, and holes that the roller would pass over, can never be mowed clean with the smallest scythe. The very first step to be taken towards getting a lawn in good order is to destroy all such inequalities, either by raising the turf, or filling them

in. Undulations are not only allowable, but, if well managed, are beautiful; but holes and ruts are altogether inadmissible. If lawns have been long neglected, they will have become rough and lumpy. The coarse grasses will have grown strong, and spread at the expense of the better and finer sorts. The whole must be cut as close as possible. This will at once show the inequalities, and if it be very bad, the first trouble and expense will be the least. Cut all the turf well, and roll it up to be stacked outside the work, have the whole space dug, levelled, and rolled, lay the turf down again, and beat it all over properly. It may then be rolled with a heavy roller after every good wetting with rain, and as soon as it begins to grow use the machine, which can be run over the whole space even before it is long enough to be cut with a scythe. If any of the noxious weeds should be inclined to grow again, take a spade and dig them fairly out. This will be easily done, because the root has been cut off at the thickness of the turf, and was turned when the ground was dug. True, it will leave holes in the turf, but it must be done, if it takes days to do it. The first expense in this matter is the least. Presuming, then, that all those weeds which spoil a lawn, if allowed to grow, are scooped out (we mean such as docks, dandelions, sowthistles, sorrel, &c.), let there be a dressing of road sand, with which all the holes will be filled up level by common bush harrowing, and every mark left in the joinings of the turf obliterated. As soon as there is the least growth in the grass, let it be heavily rolled one day and mowed the next, and by these means a coarse uneven meadow, to say nothing of a neglected lawn, will be made all that can be wished of a dressed ground. But machine mowing, while it takes much less time, requires to be done regularly, and after the new lawn, as it were, is once properly levelled and established, no more rolling is wanted than that which the instrument itself gives at the time of mowing, for it is in itself both scythe and roller. Incessant cutting

would make almost any coarse lawn smooth in time, but, by the means we have pointed out, it will be good the first season. Although we have advocated the machine, which may be had to cut and roll sixteen inches wide for about five pounds ten shillings, and up to twenty-five inches wide for nine pounds, to be drawn by a donkey or pony, we are not disposed to quarrel with those who use the scythe, because it is the pride of some men, and no small merit, to mow clean enough to show no mark of the instrument. To these we feel inclined to recommend the self-adjusting scythe,—badly named, because it wants some one to adjust it,—but it can be altered to suit anybody, and the blade can be set to any angle by a mere wrench and a turn of the screws, and it is popular on that account, although the price, half-a-guinea, does not suit everybody; nevertheless it is perfect in its way. A more recently invented scythe may be called everybodys, because it does not put old and prejudiced mowers out of the way. Strictly speaking, it may be called the poor man's scythe. It is a handy, light, and most effective instrument, adjusted by wedges, which are purchased with it, and when complete, it is a pleasant tool to work with. There is not the labour in using it that is necessary with the common one, and the construction of the blade is peculiar, but highly effective. When turned out of the factory it is six shillings and sixpence, ready for work. A novice should use one of these scythes, and he would find less difficulty in mastering the business of mowing, less trouble in whetting it, and will not have so often to do it. Another advantage would be, the new blades would simply have to take the place of the old ones, all being made to fit one handle, so that an emigrant might take out a dozen blades, and all fit alike. However we have digressed a little upon the subject of the implements to use, which, except that they do the work better, hardly belonged to our hints as to the general management. A sprinkling of wood ashes is of great

service in preventing the growth of moss, and encouraging the growth of the finer grasses, which contribute to the beauty of the lawn. In the season when grass grows rapidly, the lawn should never go more than a week without mowing, and now comes machine *versus* scythe. The former can be used when the grass is dry, the latter only when it is damp or wet; the former can be used all day in hot weather, and we know that the latter can only be used an hour or two in the morning; the former collects the grass as it is cut, the latter leaves it on the ground, and it is of the highest importance that it be removed immediately, for if it remains it discolours and injures the grass; the machine can be used when only half an inch of grass has to be cut, the scythe can hardly make an impression until the lawn has got rough; in the one case it is scarcely free of the marks before it is wanting another cutting, in the other case the lawn is always alike, because the machine leaves no marks, and may be run over it in a short time, as often as we please. If the grass is apt to get brown during the hottest weather, anticipate the change in time, and water it with diluted ammoniacal liquor or liquid manure, but be prepared to cut it soon after, for the growth will be rapid. In any extent of lawn a water cart is the best, but next to that a garden engine, for it must be wetted all over, and hand-watering is too laborious. It may be observed that all this involves too much trouble, and requires too much labour, but you have the choice of evils, either the lawn must get brown or you must incur the cost of keeping it green. This is, however, an extreme case, and not one place in a hundred, if it be properly drained, will require it. Most of the lawns which burn in summer time are too near the clay or gravel, for they both have the same effect. A good spit of earth between the grass and either of them will generally keep green, but not always. If clay, the only cure is draining. If gravel, you must use liquid manure, or ammoniacal water—which has the same

effect—to preserve the grass in colour and health. The edges of the lawn must be clipped close to the proper outline, until it spreads unequally, when the edging-knife must be resorted to.

THE MIMULUS.

THE mode of cultivating this beautiful tribe of plants I will endeavour to lay before your readers, although it may be thought that any hints are superfluous, but to bring it to perfection, there are many things to be attended to which are generally overlooked. As it is seen to the best advantage when grown in the greenhouse or pit, I shall confine myself to that system of cultivation. As a matter of course, with this plant, as with all others, soil is the first consideration, for no plant can flourish in soil ungenial to its nature. The mixture that I have found best adapted is one barrow of fresh fibry loam, one barrow of leaf mould, and half a barrow of cow dung, well rotted. These I mingle well together, and frequently turn the compost over during the winter, to destroy any insects that it may contain. The drainage of the pots is the next point to be considered, for, without proper drainage, no plant will flourish, and this precaution to take away all superfluous water seems not to be sufficiently appreciated, for generally we see only one potsherd used, and that so placed that the water has the greatest difficulty to make its way out. After having attended to the drainage, about the first week in March, I take off a quantity of cuttings, which soon make good roots, when I plant them in single pots, and gradually remove them into larger ones till May, when they generally begin to show bloom, and in June are beautifully in flower. During the blooming season, I shade that part of the house in which they are placed, that the sun may not draw the colours, or dry the soil and make the

flowers small. The only way to keep the *Mimulus* healthy, is to place it in as shaded a position as possible, supply water moderately, when required, and allow all superfluous moisture to drain away.

E. G. C.

Derby.

WHAT ARE THE OBJECTS OF SHOWS?

To promote emulation among growers, to induce the public to become cultivators, and to encourage a pure taste in fruits, flowers, plants, and vegetables.

To carry these objects into effect, the award of prizes for successful culture is of the first consequence, and there are two conditions that must be attended to to render this effective. **FIRST**, they must distinctly make men acquainted with their proposed test of excellence, that growers may know what to aim at; and, **SECONDLY**, they must employ honest judges to make the awards, so that a man may value his prize as an evidence of its superiority, and not for its intrinsic worth. The exhibition of fine subjects induces the public, who may have been previously very indifferent, to take a great interest in horticulture and floriculture. Many who have gardens straightway order something they had not grown before; in their turn they become exhibitors, and they soon feel as proud of success as any of those whose productions first awakened their curiosity and excited their ambition. But, once listen to the advice of the hack showers, and be induced to employ ignorant or dishonest judges, and the respectable growers will fall off, the field will be left for the people who get their living by showing, the prizes will be made to suit the gentlemen who intend to have them, and as soon as the subscribers cease to support a thing so destructive to all honest pride, the society is "NO MORE." Look at all the failures round London. The first falling

off may be traced to the cupidity of the managers and the employment of judges who set all the laws established by honest exhibitors at defiance, judges who make MEN, instead of their FLOWERS, the standard by which the awards are made. Imagine the lesson inculcated at the Crystal Palace, "*Yellow bottoms in roses, and green-blighted petals in byblæmens, are the flowers to win with.*" Can any worse notion be inculcated among young florists? They have been taught by their forefathers, and by authorities that can neither be shaken nor doubted, that purity in a Tulip is a *sine qua non*, and that unless it be pure it is not only condemned, but that the presence of one such in a collection will condemn the whole. These lessons are so well grounded, that any upstart might write and preach to eternity against purity, and nobody would believe him. But when a show is puffed up as a "national" affair, and foul flowers, that would disgrace a collection of a hundred, are deliberately awarded the first prize, and pure flowers are placed below them, there is a practical demonstration that pure flowers are not considered at all necessary in a stand shown at the "National," and that however highly purity may have been esteemed by honest and honourable florists, the judges of the National will not be swayed by any such qualities as purity. Men do now and then degenerate, witness the marked difference between that noble old florist, John Goldham, and his son. But it is for florists to remind the lovers of foul Tulips that, however much they have degenerated, they should not make Tulips follow them. One view of this nefarious transaction must not be lost sight of. The National Society, in adopting foul flowers for their favourites, might have given notice, that all men might select large foul specimens, then, however vulgar the taste, exhibitors might have pandered to it for gain; but as the intention seems only to have been known to one person, he was enabled to sweep the board.

G. G.

DAHLIAS.—DISBUDDING V. CUTTING OUT.

It is a common practice, even in first-rate collections, to allow the plants to be completely filled with wood before they are interfered with as to thinning, which, in my humble opinion, is a great mistake. Instead of allowing the shoots to become so large as to require cutting, I think it greatly to the benefit of the plant to disbud, as I call it, or break out the superabundant shoots, which ought to be done as soon as they are an inch or two long, and the plants gone over every two or three days. But to do this of course requires a good acquaintance with the different varieties in cultivation. The great evil avoided by thinning in time is the smallness of the blooms, and I am not sure that even the doubleness of a flower is not much improved by this early disbudding; for after a bud is once formed, no after management can possibly make any difference in this respect. If the whole of the shoots are allowed to remain for cutting out, a great number of them must undoubtedly suffer; for, supposing a plant to take up one pound weight of sap daily, it may probably have to support at least two hundred buds, three-fourths of which would undoubtedly be cut out when thinned, while, if thinned in time, the same quantity of sap might not have more than fifty buds to support, and consequently a larger amount of support would be given to each. I think this might be fully proved to the satisfaction of growers, if tried on such varieties as Sir J. Franklin, which is always a good double flower, but very often, from the number of blooms it is allowed to carry, too small for exhibition. Sir C. Napier is another flower of this class, which might be greatly improved, and Sir F. Bathurst, which, it is well known, soon blooms itself out, might be very much improved if thinned in time. But, as before stated, a thorough knowledge of the different varieties cultivated is necessary to effectually carry out this early thinning properly.

Soil and situation may make some difference as to some varieties, but I would strongly advise all growers to make notes during the present season, of their different sorts, so as to be able to give them proper treatment another season.

W. S.

DESTRUCTION OF VERMIN.

SLUGS.—In a neglected garden there is nothing more annoying than slugs. I happened once to take premises which had been empty two years, and the garden during that period had not been touched with a garden tool. The gravel walks were not perceptible at all, rank weeds and grass were as high as ones middle. The tops of some shrubs were visible here and there, but no outline of beds, borders, or paths could be recognized. As might be supposed, the slugs had progressed as fast as the weeds, and, after clearing it a little, I made up my mind to trench it and turn the gravel walks. First, I gathered the weeds together, and, with the help of the carpenter's shavings, which during the repairs were abundant, burnt them. I then scattered the ashes, and buried the top spit deep, bringing up a good twelve inches of the lower soil to the top. I fancied I should get rid of vermin and weeds, for a time at least, but, to my horror, the first few things I put in were fairly devoured by slugs, which appeared in myriads,—some of all sizes, but small ones were beyond all conception numerous. I purchased of a neighbour a rod of Cabbages, and laid Cabbage leaves in a row along the borders, near the edge, suspended all planting operations, and morning after morning took up the leaves one by one, and with a brush swept off the slugs, which congregated on the under side, into a pail of salt and water. There appeared no diminution of the thousands I found on the leaves for several days.

In a week I threw the stale leaves to the dunghill, and laid down fresh ones. At the end of the second week they had reduced in number considerably, and instead of scores on each leaf, there were very few, less than half-a-dozen. At the end of the third week I took up many leaves without finding a slug, and the fewer I found, the more perseveringly I hunted for them. I then ventured to plant Lettuces, to sow Turnips, and even to put out a bed of Pinks. Nevertheless, I continued my daily inspection of the Cabbage leaves until I rarely found a slug. But, woe me! almost every other Lettuce was gnawed off by the cockchafer grub. These were easily found, for wherever a lettuce fell I dug till I found the pest, and I continued to plant out young Lettuce all over the vacancies, for they were unerring guides to the grub. My patience had not yet been tried to the full extent. I found my Pinks going, and then discovered a greater evil than either of the others: the place was full of wireworms. I knew they were fond of Carrots, and I bought a lot, which I put into the ground, with a trowel, between all the rows of Pinks, and it saved all that had not been attacked. Every morning did I pull up the Carrots, and at first I found several on each, for they generally worked their way half the length of their bodies into the root, and I had to pull them out and destroy them. The number I destroyed was incredible. We all know the recipe for keeping the servants from stealing the table beer was to place a barrel of ale by the side of it, and the way to preserve anything from vermin is to give them something they like better, and let it be a trap for them. Bots and earthgrubs will leave anything for Lettuce, wireworms will take a Carrot, and slugs like nothing better than a Cabbage leaf. But we must not be content with feeding these pests, they must be destroyed daily, until all have been disposed of. Slugs are the easiest to destroy by the means I have mentioned, for slugs, like men, "prefer darkness to light, because their deeds are evil." They harbour under

the Cabbage leaves ; it is cool and dark, and they feed ravenously. But we must not relax a day in examining our Cabbage-leaf traps and the Carrots. Grubs we can only detect by the plants they destroy, and they are never far from the roots. These hints may be useful to some of your readers.

DIANTHUS.

THE INTEREST OF FLORICULTURE.

THIS will be best promoted by frequent meetings among amateurs, and by constant communication, by extreme watchfulness to detect, and courage to expose all those who show other people's flowers, by endeavouring to influence committees to appoint independent judges at shows, to send forth judicious schedules, and to let the world know by public announcement the standard by which everything shall be judged ; for except there be one uniform standard, properly recognized, exhibitors cannot tell whether size, or colour, or novelty is to decide a person's claims for a prize ; for be it known that the following evils now prevail to a great extent :—

1st.—Men show productions of other people's growth, and successfully compete for prizes.

2nd.—The appointment of judges is too often made at the suggestion of people who deal with them, and whose plants and flowers are as well known by the people who served them as if the name of the owner were on them.

3rd.—Exhibitors are at a loss to know the qualities that a strange judge may value most, and they get beaten when they could beat all others.

4th.—The dressing of flowers is now carried to such an extent that particular varieties can hardly be recognized, and this evil is particularly felt in new flowers, which are exhibited in a state that nobody can grow them, and thus buyers who see them pur-

chase under an impression that they are natural, when in fact they have had hours spent upon them to make them what they appear.

5th.—The schedules provide only two or three prizes when there ought to be double the number and more. So that there are rarely more exhibitors than prizes, all but the two or three for whom they are intended deeming it hopeless to compete.

6th.—There is too much difference in the prizes. The gradations ought to be small, because the difference in the productions is frequently small, and the pride of rank ought to be the motive of the exhibitor, not the difference of money value. For instance, say (for we are quoting from a schedule now before us), three prizes are offered, thirty shillings, twenty, and ten. It would be much more judicious to give twenty-five shillings, twenty, and fifteen, which costs the same amount; but better still if it were divided into five,—twenty shillings, sixteen, twelve, eight, and four. It would induce more competitors to enter the field.

7th.—There should be no opportunity for large growers to show in several classes of the same productions. It only encourages a mercenary spirit, a greedy desire to monopolize, and it has the worst possible effect on young aspirants to floral honours. We have seen this carried to an extravagant length in some cases, say in Dahlias. We have no objection to two classes of show Dahlias for nurserymen, one for fifty blooms, and one for twenty-four; but it is the height of absurdity to allow one man to show in both. The same with regard to fancy flowers, there may be two classes of these, but on what principle of prudence can the same men be allowed to show in both? The effect of this most stupid of all plans is to give a large grower the power of sweeping off a large sum, while the small growers, who may grow quite as well, are nevertheless shut out. But the result is, that it deters the smaller growers from competing at all, and the exhibition suffers in proportion.

The other day we gave a sort of programme for a Dahlia show upon a large scale, for the special notice of Sir Joseph Paxton. Let the same points be kept in sight by all committees of management when drawing up the schedules.

With regard to THE FIRST of these evils, it is the most serious, for there is a class among whom it is general, and although it is easier to know a thing than to prove it by legal evidence, it is the duty of those who object to it to turn watchers and informers, rather than allow it to drive good men from the numerous societies to which they are subscribers. In our time we could reckon up many gentlemen or first-rate growers who have retired in disgust, and we know that two growers have laid their heads together, brought the best of their flowers, made up their minds which had the best, and forthwith added a few fine flowers from the other's stock, and then done all they could to make from their joint stocks the best second stand. Away they have gone to some show where the prizes are ridiculously large, and walked off with first and second, for who, with his single stock, honestly grown, could compete with the best flowers from two stocks? On this ground we are not displeased to know that certain persons, who are known to do such things, will, for days before the Crystal Palace show, be watched. If boxes come in or go out, all the circumstances, at both places, will be known; and in one place a man will risk his situation to expose the dishonesty that has been going on for years, if it be again attempted. Everyone should do his best to detect and expose such swindling.

The SECOND evil may be cured by the members' direct vote. Mr. A proposes Mr. B as a judge, and being a good customer to Mr. B, who will recognize in an instant the plants he has sold, Mr. B will fight hard to place his patron as high up as he can. But nurserymen are not the people to choose. Select some well known distant gardener or amateur, who can have no motive, and above all one unconnected

by business or otherwise with any of the exhibitors. This mischief can only be got rid of by the popular choice of judges, that is, the selection of them by the main body of members, or some modification. At a general meeting, half-a-dozen, or any other given number of eligible persons, should be chosen by the members, and returned to the committee, who might be authorized to appoint the proper number from those returned. Say three are wanted, the members should select six, from which the committee should appoint the number required.

The THIRD evil can also be cured by a direct proposition from the members that the committee shall state by what test the plants and flowers shall be judged. If it be by "THE PROPERTIES OF FLOWERS AND PLANTS," as published, it is sufficient to say so on the schedule. If by any other test, give the rules in print, that no exhibitor may be misled by the varying tastes of man.

The FOURTH evil is the dressing of flowers, by which they are made to appear better than they are, and people are induced to buy. We have seen Pink growers carry a large magnifying glass, with which they detect many tricks, and if similar glasses were used to Dahlias, many split petals would show the torture to which the quilled flowers have been subjected, to get them into the form which is to take in the public. Societies have only to make it a condition that the flowers are shown *as they grow*, and good judges will soon discover which have been dressed, and throw them out.

The FIFTH evil is self-evident, and it requires only that the members of all societies should express their opinions on the subject. In most societies there are leading exhibitors, and among two or three of these hungry prize hunters the best of the resources are absolutely wasted. The great wonder is that the number can be got together to give their subscriptions to be swallowed by a few. When the effect is so palpable in the small number of competitors there

ought to be a universal complaint. Why should all but two or three be shut out from all hope of a prize.

The SIXTH evil is the difference in the value of the prizes, and the limited number, the ill effect of which we have already shown, and the remedy for which we have explained.

The SEVENTH evil is the number of classes in which nurserymen and large growers are allowed to show, and we hope a little consideration on the part of managers will suffice to put an end to so monstrous a folly. The idea of encouraging a large grower to swamp all beneath him is worthy of the dark ages, but we have said so much of this lately, that we do hope committees will, for a few minutes, consider the withering effect of such policy, and change it altogether. The object ought to be to get as many varieties of growth and taste together as possible, instead of which many seem to fancy that two or three good prizes in each class will ensure two or three stands of good flowers in each class; they care not how many belong to one man, and lose sight of the fact that the same money divided into more prizes (and the showers confined to their one class of a sort) would bring a far greater number of exhibitors, all of whom have their own peculiar tastes in the selection of flowers, and that many flowers would be shown which the large growers do not cultivate.

Looking at all this mischief, and the little pains required to get rid of it, we can do nothing better than urge all those who feel an interest in horticultural shows, and in the well-being of the floral community, to "put their shoulder to the wheel," and to remember that the funds of societies were never intended to feed the cupidity of hungry and prosperous dealers, who can afford to pay more attention to their stocks, and get more by showing them, than those who do not sell, and who, therefore, in proportion to their success in trade, can, *if encouraged by tempting prizes*, travel like itinerant showmen at the expense of a society, and exhibit their stock to the

disparagement of more honest local tradesmen, and deceive the world by showing things in an artificial state.

THE DAHLIA.

PERHAPS in the annals of floriculture the Dahlia is unparalleled in the interest it excites. Its tenacity of life, the facility with which the various kinds are raised, the diversity of form and colour, the great rapidity and certainty with which all or any particular variety may be increased by the division of the stems and roots, its comparative indifference as to the kind of soil, the season at which it blooms in the greatest perfection, and the very moderate price at which most of the really first-rate varieties are usually sold, all join in raising the Dahlia in the estimation of florists to the first position as an autumnal flower. It is esteemed and cultivated among all classes, and perhaps no other flower enjoys the popularity to which it has attained, and were it possible to ascertain the amount annually expended in the purchase of this flower, it would be found to rise to an almost fabulous sum. Although nearly sixty years have elapsed since the Dahlia was first cultivated in England, it is still capable of great improvement, although it has already attained regularity in form and variety in colour.

Having been a successful grower for more than twenty years, I doubt not but that a few remarks on its management at the present season may be acceptable to a numerous class of readers. At this season great attention must be paid to staking and tying the side branches. As they advance in growth great damage frequently arises through the deferring of the tying of these, by fostering the idea that they can be left until the whole of them can be tied together, and therefore it not unfrequently happens that a sudden high wind strips the plant of half its side

branches. It cannot, therefore be too strongly impressed on the minds of those who would have really fine flowers, to tie out the side branches as soon as formed, keeping them as close to the ground as possible. I always place five stakes to each plant in the following form :—

* *

* *

* *

By this means the heat and air will be allowed to circulate freely through the plant, as well as around it, and this is an highly essential point. The plant will require thinning, but no definite rule for practice can be laid down. Never allow the plant to become full of small shoots or branches, and then suddenly take out a great number of them. The shoots must be cut out as the plant progresses, or in all probability you will either kill the plant or render it incapable of blooming. It will also be highly injudicious to subject each variety to the same amount of thinning, for as much injury will arise to some as good to others. Sorts that produce large and coarse flowers must be cut sparingly, while those requiring size may be thinned considerably ; but, as before observed, a precise rule cannot be laid down, and nothing but close observation will make the operator perfect on this point. The same observation will apply to disbudding. Those necessary to reduce in size may be deferred until a later period, which will render the flowers more compact, the petals smaller, and the whole form better. From constant watering, the ground around will have become hard and dry, and it will be advisable to mulch it with half-decomposed manure, and this should be done as immediately as possible after the ground has been forked over, thereby keeping the roots nearest the surface moist. In watering, use soft or river water, if possible, and if not obtainable, pump some into tanks and allow it to be exposed to the action of the sun and air for some hours. In hot weather, syringe the tops of the plants

in the evening, and give considerable quantities of water. If the plants are neglected to be syringed the foliage will fall off, and they will be very subject to the earwig.

Those who have grown the Dahlia for exhibition will be fully awake to the importance of keeping down insects, more particularly the earwig. Many plans are adopted for this purpose; the most common, and I may say with safety the most effectual, is to place a small pot, about one-third filled with dry moss, on the stakes that support the plants. If you take a candle, about ten o'clock at night, and look over some of the plants which the earwig seems to infest, you will find them busy at work. Those who intend catching them must be wide awake, for if even you shake a branch, they will be on the ground. Any Dahlia that is more choice than others I visit most nights, taking a bed candlestick, and holding it underneath any branch where I see an earwig. If I miss catching it with my finger and thumb, it drops into the candlestick, where I make sure of it. In the morning they retire into the pots placed on the stakes, or conceal themselves in any convenient place, therefore the pots must be examined at least twice a week. In selecting blooms for exhibition, it often puzzles the most experienced grower to arrange the flowers to his mind, for he frequently has too many self colours, particularly the crimson selfs, as they are so much more numerous than the light edged varieties, and superior in shape to the light flowers. In selecting twenty-four flowers, one or two points very frequently have to be sacrificed, either in shape, or contrast in colour. I always recommend that as much diversity of colour should be introduced as possible, with due regard to shape and perfect centres. Much can be done by arrangement, yet we very frequently see stands contain five or six of nearly the same shade, and of great similarity in form. At all times select deep circular flowers, and quality before size. If a bloom is observed to be shaky behind, or

inclined to open in the centre, discard it at once, as they are regarded as losing qualities, if placed in a stand. Never handle the blooms unnecessarily. It should be remembered that all this painstaking has been to produce them in the highest state of perfection, and to be looked at only. Rough usage will deaden the appearance of the flower, which cannot be removed again. Fancy Dahlias are becoming very popular, and are deservedly so. Many prejudiced themselves against these parti-coloured flowers, and fancied they never could be produced of good shape, but every succeeding season has tended to remove this impression. We have some fancies which would grace a stand of no ordinary varieties. I should recommend the same treatment for these as the others, excepting that they should not be grown quite so strong. Fancy Dahlias, in a few years, will no doubt be more extensively cultivated than the ordinary varieties, being more showy in the borders, and will be equally as good in shape, and more attractive when shown in stands for competition, as there are a greater variety of shades.

RICHARD EDWARDS.

HORTICULTURE.

IF the admiration of the beautiful things of nature has a tendency to soften and refine the character, the culture of them has a still more powerful and abiding influence. It takes the form of an affection. The seed which we have nursed, the tree of our planting, under whose shade we sit with delight, are to us living and loving friends. In proportion to the care we have bestowed upon them, is the warmth of our regard. Horticulture has been pronounced by medical men as favourable to health and cheerfulness of spirits; but if he who devotes his leisure to the culture of the works of nature benefits himself, he who beautifies a

garden for the eye of the community is surely a public benefactor. Flowers are the ornament of vegetable existence, and have in all ages been cultivated for the beauty and variety of their forms. The flower garden has always been the object of the fondest regard. Every mansion has one or more attached to it, and almost every cottage in the country has its little plot of land filled with bright, sweet-smelling flowers, that gladden both the eye and the heart. Even in large towns, amidst poverty and squalor, the box of mould, or the flowerpot, outside the window, in every street and alley, tell of the throbbings of the heart for some pure communion with unsophisticated nature.

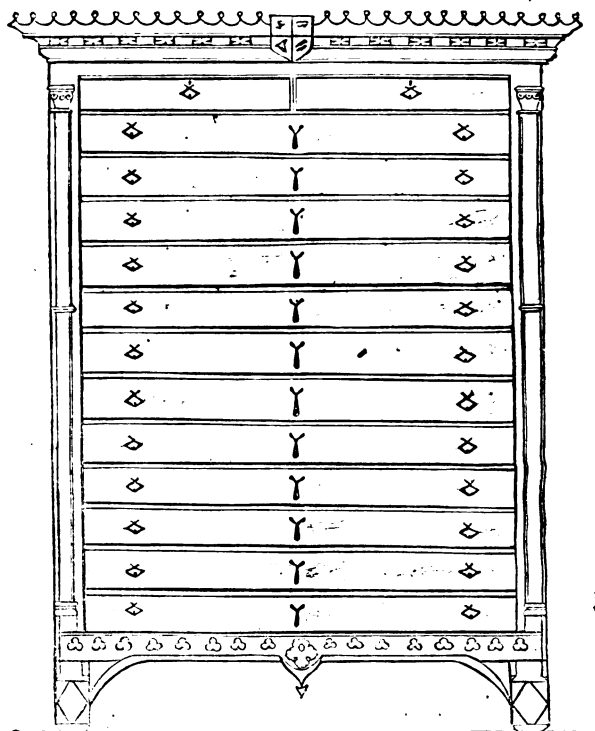
JOHN THOMPSON, *Jersey.*

A QUESTION ANSWERED.

WHAT DO THE GARDENING PUBLIC WANT? They want to buy new things at their right value, and not to have a fixed price for good, bad, and indifferent. We never complained of the price of a really good thing, but it is the payment of the same price for bad ones that we object to. The metropolitan nurseries must have a set. The possession of a good flower that it would do them credit to let out is a means which they use to force the sale of half a dozen bad ones, perhaps more. We remember Epps, of Maidstone, sending us a batch of ten Fuchsias, from which we selected two which, at that time, were better than we had in general cultivation; the rest were all inferior. The *Chronicle* people praised the whole batch. The two we selected were in cultivation for years, and are in many collections now, but the others were scarcely heard of more. Now we have two rival nurserymen accusing each other of doing wrong. One says the other is offering a batch of Fuchsias, the refuse of a lot from which the former selected the best, and the other "accuses the accuser" of offering a batch of

Verbenas which the writer had rejected altogether, and we believe both to be right. But it is the public who suffer. Both of these rejected lots have come out at novelty prices, and if people believe the venders instead of us, they will get perhaps more rubbish ; for in the case of abuse we have mentioned, it is the quarrel of the kettle and the pot, each borrowing from somebody a little truth for the occasion, and calling the other black. But the public may learn from this little episode how completely they are duped and cheated. Strange as it may seem, each of these condemned dealers—condemned by each other—have usually taken care that *we* should see any really good novelty they had to send out, but when a thing will not bear our scrutiny they take quite as much pains to keep it away from us, and only show it where the judges are packed, or at a society where they are their own judges. However the public are beginning, nay, they have begun, to pay more attention to our advice. The dealers in worthless novelties have been at war with us for trying to make them attend to their own permanent interests, and leave off the too long permitted “tricks of the trade” in novelties. Thousands of the public, who would have been enthusiasts, and bought everything new, had they been honestly dealt with, now look at new things as a burnt child does at the fire. They scarcely trust their own eyes. They will buy nothing without the highest authority warrants it. They wait until the next season, when they do not see or hear of one in a score proving good, and they congratulate themselves on their escape from what has hitherto seemed licensed fraud. One man, who assumes to be better than the rest of the world, a moral and a religious man, has publicly owned that, of all the flowers that he ever let out, and they must amount to something approaching two hundred, he dare not put more than forty in his own catalogue, and a good many dealers refuse to put in half these. Yet he boasts of what he has done in good flowers, but not one word about

his gains from the hundred worthless things he has been paid for. The public will not have this any longer. The wider our cautions are disseminated the more is the trade in worthless things destroyed. If we never say another word about these frauds, we shall have done our duty; but as the principal delinquents prefer war to peace, and do their best to damage us, in the hope of weakening our influence, we are bound to defend our opinions and our motives, and to show up our persecutors, that the floral world may see the motives that actuate them, and appreciate their struggles to maintain a disreputable trade by weakening the only one who ever had the courage to beard them in their stronghold. It may be annoying to the monopolists of worthless novelties that one pen should not only spoil their trade, but that all their efforts to destroy the influence of that pen are like throwing mud against a stone wall,—it may deface, but cannot damage it. The struggles of *respectable* cheats, like those of drowning men, merely hasten the decay of fraudulent trade. We have never failed to warn the public, and we have safely guided those who would be guided to the best markets for the best things. We never wilfully missed a good flower, nor failed to make the most of it, even when in the hands of a bad man. But that which is worse than gall to the banded few, who thought they could ruin us and pursue their crafty trade with impunity, is, that they could never detect us in writing a falsehood, nor force us to retract an unpalatable truth. We have rarely stepped out of the way to condemn publicly a bad flower, unless, as was the case in a society in which the secretary got a first-class certificate for a flower not worth twopence, and sold it at an enormous price. We were then obliged publicly to condemn it, and, though it was advertised at a guinea, we compelled the holder to withdraw it. There is, this season, a flower, of about the same value, and in much the same state (except that the owner seems to be master instead of secretary in the society), and it



A TULIP CABINET

Of twelve drawers, each drawer to contain twelve rows, with two small drawers at the top, to hold books, catalogues, &c.

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is just possible we may step out of the way to condemn that. It is a Dahlia that would have been thrown away years ago for its ugliness, its looseness, and the absence of any redeeming point, but to which his fellow *honourable* traders in such things gave a *first-class certificate*. We would rather let him prove to five hundred buyers that some certificates are a disgrace to a flower, and some flowers a disgrace to the men who have the effrontery to sell them as *first-class novelties*.

GEORGE GLENNY.

PLAN OF A CABINET OR CHEST OF TULIP DRAWERS,

Calculated to hold the bulbs of what I should term two half beds, of seventy-two rows each, or one whole bed, of a hundred and forty-four rows, with system of arrangement. The chest to be made a sufficient size to hold twelve drawers, each drawer to contain twelve rows, or eighty-four holes, two inches deep, and two inches and a quarter wide.

THE reason why I recommend drawers containing twelve rows, in preference to ten rows, is, on arranging the classes, roses, bybloemens, and bizarres, at the end of every twelve rows, there are equal quantities of each, whereas a drawer of only ten rows leaves the classes unequal, although the first and tenth rows are the same as regards the colours; and with twelve rows, whether your collection be large or small, you can leave off at the end of any box, and always have equal numbers of the classes on the same bed. I am aware it is not every one who grows sufficient stock to make up what is called the chief or main bed, of one hundred and forty-four rows. To any person who intends having a cabinet, and can afford it, I would say, get the full number of drawers at once, for the spare boxes you may have will be found useful for offsets and the like; and any season, if you wish it, you can extend your bed, by adding a drawer or drawers, until you get

blue for byblœmens, and yellow for bizarres—number or mark them as follows: the first row, beginning with a rose, 1-1 rose-coloured bag, 2-1 blue bag, 3-1 yellow bag, and so on all through the bed. When the seven roots, or one row, are put into the bags,

PLAN No. 2. BED RUNNING TO THE LEFT HAND.

	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
7	Rose	Byb	Rose	Biz	Byb	Rose	Biz	Byb	Rose	Biz	Byb	Rose
6	Rose	Biz	Byb	Rose	Biz	Byb	Rose	Biz	Byb	Rose	Biz	Byb
5	Byb	Rose	Biz	Byb	Rose	Biz	Byb	Rose	Biz	Byb	Rose	Biz
4	Biz	Byb	Rose	Biz	Byb	Rose	Biz	Byb	Rose	Biz	Byb	Rose
3	Byb	Rose	Biz	Byb	Rose	Biz	Byb	Rose	Biz	Byb	Rose	Biz
2	Rose	Biz	Byb	Rose	Biz	Byb	Rose	Biz	Byb	Rose	Biz	Byb
1	Biz	Byb	Rose	Biz	Byb	Rose	Biz	Byb	Rose	Biz	Byb	Rose

A Twelve-row Drawer, with Plan of arranging the different Classes, Roses, Byblœmens, and Bizarres, in equal quantities.

place them all in one larger and stronger bag, mark the number of the row upon it, double over the bag at the top, bore a hole, thread a piece of string through the hole, tie it, and hang it on a rod or lath. When the rod is full, fix it up in a dry room,

where the bags need not be disturbed till planting-out time. In this way the bulbs will be quite as safe, if not safer than those kept in boxes, in a cabinet, particularly if they are laid loose in the boxes, without being put into bags. To those who keep their tulip bulbs in a loose state, rolling about in the boxes, my advice is to provide a bag for every single bulb throughout the cabinet, for, depend upon it, it is the safest and best way of preserving them. After they are cleaned and cleared from the old dried skins, put them in bags and place them in their boxes again; the bags will prevent them from jolting about, which is sure to be the case, if left loose; you cannot pull a drawer out, or put one in the cabinet, without their bulging. The injury may not be detected while the bulbs are out of the ground, but soon after they are planted, they begin to feel the ill effects, and if the plants do not die off at coming up, they show a sort of disease, which sometimes proves fatal; and it is my firm opinion, that in nine cases out of every ten, the destruction which happens yearly to the Tulip is caused by this and similar circumstances. I shall, if all is well, at a future time, have a little to say on the disease of the Tulip, which, to some people, seems a mystery that wants finding out. Some parties say that the Tulip bulbs, while out of the ground, should have all the air and light possible. That is a sad mistaken idea. The bulbs require neither light nor much air. They only require to be properly dried, after they are taken up, until they are stripped of their old clothes as it were, which should be done about the second week in August, the offsets taken away, put in bags, same as the old bulbs, and hung up in a dry room, or, if kept in boxes, carefully stowed away in a dry place, where they can remain undisturbed until planting time. I always keep the offsets, as well as the old bulbs, in coloured bags, which I find much handier than the old way of keeping them. Some persons may think the providing so many bags for their bulbs useless

and childish, and likewise expensive, but I would recommend them to try the plan for a season, and then speak of the result. Bags are not over-expensive; what are termed ounce bags, are quite large enough to hold single bulbs, and may be had from the London bag makers, in coloured paper, at about sixpence per gross; indeed I dare engage to supply them for that sum, and larger sizes at corresponding prices; samples of which I will furnish to any one, on receipt of a stamp, to cover the postage. My plan of numbering the offsets is to begin No. 1, rose, say *Triomphe Royale*; No. 2, bybloemen, David; No. 3, *Surpass Catafalque*, bizarre, and so on through the whole quantity,—roses in red, bybloemens in blue, and bizarres in black.

Rose-coloured bags	Blue bags	Yellow bags
for the rose class,	for bybloemens,	for bizarres.

[To be continued.]

J. HEPWORTH.

(Hendries) Gardens, Lea Bridge-road,
Leyton, Essex.

HARDY ANNUALS.—One of the worst evils of the bedding system is the bareness of the beds in early spring, which, as far as possible, should be avoided. The best way to manage this is to have a quantity of evergreens in pots, which can be plunged in the beds at pleasure. But where these cannot be had, the beds may be edged with Crocuses, and the centres filled up with Pansies, Polyanthus, Auriculas, Tulips, Hyacinths, Anemones, and such like things, to which may be added the following annuals, which, if sown about the second week in August, under a wall, or in any other sheltered place, will stand the winter well, and may be transplanted into the beds about March, when they will bloom in April or May:—*Nemophila insignis*, blue and white, very pretty; *Canditufts*, red, purple, and white; *Erysimum Peroffskianum*, orange; *Eschscholtzia crocea* and

E. Californica, yellow and orange; *Limnanthes Douglasii*, yellow and white, beautiful; *Collinsia bicolor*, lilac and white, and *Collinsia grandiflora*, purple, very handsome. Care must be taken that the plants do not stand too thickly in their winter quarters, as, when left thin, the plants are much stronger, consequently stand the frost better, and transplant with more safety.—W. S.

THE VERULAM Pear was raised by Mr. Buchanan, in 1827, and was received into the collection of the Horticultural Society in 1828. The fruit is produced all over the tree, with great regularity, and is remarkably uniform in size. The skin is strong, with bronzelike russet, and is well adapted for protecting the fruit for a long period. The flesh is crisp and juicy, and tolerably melting. Its principal merit is as a stewing pear, for which purpose it is found to be excellent, and acquires a fine rose colour, without the aid of cochineal. In this way, it may be used all through the winter and till May. The tree forms a round spreading head, bears abundantly as a standard, and the fruit keeping sound so long a time, it must be considered a valuable acquisition.

THE NEW SCARLET OLIVE-SHAPED RADISH.—I have tried this in a frame, and also in the open ground, beside the short top and turnip Radish, and find it greatly inferior to both in every respect. It is coarse and ugly in shape, with a great straggling top, and as hollow as a drum. Why, then, add a thing like this to our already over-long seed list, when it does not possess one single merit to recommend it?—W. S.

FRUIT CULTURE, BY M'EWEN.—We are not over and above enamoured of treatises, as they are called, upon the culture of whatever a man has grown well, as exemplified in modern productions of the horticultural press, because in most cases they have been mere repetitions of what the grower has read and

acted upon, and it is a piece of unpardonable presumption to give as his own the very lessons which he found ready written, and to which he owed his success. We have had to witness this arrogance in the growers of Dahlias and other flowers, who have not added a single idea to what has been previously published, nor given anything but the name, and worse language, to distinguish their books from those of better authors. But nobody is more ready to pay homage to the practical man, who has trodden a new path, and directs us the right way. Mr. M'Ewen, the late gardener to the Duke of Norfolk, and now at the head of the Button Hill Gardens, the seat of B. W. Beaumont, Esq., has long been distinguished as one of the most successful cultivators of fruit, and has "many a time" borne off the highest prizes from the horticultural exhibitions at the Crystal Palace, Royal Botanic Gardens, and Chiswick, has commenced a series of treatises on fruit culture, and the first of these, just published, is devoted to the Strawberry, and a most valuable lesson it affords to all who desire to cultivate the fruit. It is useful to the grower of a few plants in a small garden, it is beyond price or praise to those who grow them on a large scale and force them. It tells us the history of the plant, and how to grow it under all the disadvantages that may await us. It instructs us in the constitution of the Strawberry, its wants, and how to supply them; states the advantages and disadvantages of the stove in forcing, and how to make the best of them; instructs us in frame culture, soils, potting and watering, open air culture, Strawberries as edgings, and raising from seed. Then we have notes on the qualities and properties, an excellent calendarial summary, an account of the insects that attack the plant, and how to destroy them. There is also some useful information on the weight of the fruit, and mode of exhibiting. Upon the whole it is the most practical and useful book on the subject, and if the grower possesses it, he may burn all his other books about the Strawberry.

CALENDAR OF OPERATIONS, FOR AUGUST.

PROPAGATE Pansies by cuttings, plant out seedlings, make new beds, and shade those in flower for showing. Pelargoniums that have done blooming, and been cut down, may, as soon as they break out again, be taken out of their large pots, root-pruned, headed in, and put into smaller. Plant out the struck Pink pipings into nursery beds, for moving, or into their permanent beds, for flowering. Still propagate all sorts of half-hardy clump plants, such as Fuchsias, Petunias, Verbenas, &c., by cuttings; all sorts of perennials, by parting the roots or cuttings; and herbaceous plants which have done flowering, by parting the roots. All biennials that are large enough, should be planted out in beds, or where they are to bloom. Dahlias require the ordinary care of fastening the shoots, shading the flowers, cutting away such leaves or branches only as are in the way, or are growing beyond the flowers wanted. If there be a finer bloom than usual, on a desirable variety, mark that for seed. Pull off every flower the moment it is useless, the more blooms there are, the worse it is for all. Carnations, Picotees, &c. not layered, must be done as soon as possible, and those which are layered must be watered and carefully attended to till rooted. Throw the soil out of the beds intended for Tulips as soon as they are at liberty, and lay it in high ridges on each side of the beds, to be turned over once or twice a month. Examine the Roses budded in June and July, and release them from their ties. Cut off the shoots from the stocks, and remove all suckers. Cover Auriculas from too much wet and heat, but give all the air possible. Pot those that require shifting in pots a size larger, or so reduce the roots as to go into a new pot the same size; but if the roots do not reach the sides of the pots, and the plants are healthy, they had better remain another season. Anemone and Ranunculus seed may be sown early this month, in pans or boxes, or, if the common sorts only, on beds, thinly broadcast.

Sow the main crop of Spinach for winter. Onions that have nearly come to their growth should be bent down. Sow Lettuce to stand through the winter. Leeks should be earthed up three or four inches, to whiten them. Cucumbers should have all the weak and useless shoots pulled off, and dead leaves removed. Earth up Celery as it grows. After a wet day, sow Cabbage seed, to come in the spring and summer. In wet weather, plant out the last of any or all kinds of Broccoli from the seed bed. Top beans in bloom, and earth all that are up. Cauliflowers, to be protected through the winter, may be sown the third week. Plant out every description of winter greens, wherever there is room. Sow Turnips, after rain.

FLORAL EXHIBITIONS.

LEA BRIDGE AMATEUR TULIP SOCIETY.

The exhibition of this society was held in the grounds of R. I. Hendrie, Esq., on Monday, May 26. Considering the unfavourable season, the show was good, and far exceeding the general expectation. The continuance of the north and north-east winds had severely injured the bloom, and although a late day was fixed, the flowers, in many localities, were not in condition. There was a numerous attendance of visitors, who were highly delighted with the exhibition. In the evening, the members assembled at the Lamb and Flag, to dinner, which did great credit to the host, Mr. Bratt, who, by the by, grows a long bed, and had about the best bloom we have seen this season. After the usual toasts, the health of the patron, R. J. Hendrie, Esq., Syborn House, Leyton, was drank with due honours, the chairman, in the absence of that gentleman, from illness, responding, and announcing the receipt of his annual subscription of ten pounds. The following exhibitors were awarded prizes by the judges, Messrs. H. Alexander, R. Ion, I. Woolnough, I. Crutchley, and Brown.

1. Mr. Airzee, for La Vandicken, Washington, Platoff, Triomphe Royale, Leopold, Franciscus Primus, Claudiana, Major Beauclerc, Polyphemus, Manteau Ducale, Triomphe de Lisle, unknown. 2. Mr. Bray, Sanzio, Violet Alexander, Duke of Devonshire, Lawrence's Friend, Cerise Belleforme, Platoff, Comte de Vergennes, Walker's King, Rubens, Claudiana, Triomphe de Lisle, Cerise Royale. 3. Mr. A. Moring, General Bournonville, Triomphe Royale, Baguet, Shakspeare, Cerise Belleforme, Holmes's King, George IV., Claudiana, Polyphemus, Gloria Mundi, Goldham's Maria, Roi de Siam. 4. Mr. Philipps, Duke of Devonshire, Aglaia, Franciscus Primus, Polyphemus, Rose Emily, Charbonnier, General Bournonville, Claudiana, Willison's King, Triomphe de Lisle, Purple Perfection, Triomphe Royale. 5. Mr. Dunn, Aglaia, Godet Parfait, Platoff, Claudiana, Violet Gargantua, Emperor of Austria, Rose Brilliant, Lord John Russell, Rising Sun, Manteau Ducale, David, Polyphemus. 6. Mr. Thompson, Sir C. Napier, Strong's Hero, Polyphemus, Mary Ann, Lawrence's Friend, Roi de Siam, Rubens, Walker's King, Groom's Queen Adelaide, Ponceau, Aglaia, Claudiana. 7. Mr. Page, Baguet, Page's George IV., Alcon, Polyphemus, Lalla Rookh, Princess Charlotte, Glencoe, Claudiana, Cerise Belleforme, Cerise Royale, Reine de Sheba, Apelles. 8. Mr. Perry, Royal Sovereign, Triomphe Royale, Franciscus Primus, Gloria Mundi, Gossiana, Polyphemus, Goldham's Maria, Alcon, Manteau Ducale, Grotius, Vivid, Cerise Belleforme. 9. Rose Emily, Surpass Polyphemus, Franciscus Primus, Claudiana, General Bournonville, Triomphe Royale, Sanzio, Joseph Hume, Goud Beurs, Angelica, Libro, Polyphemus. 10. Mr. Jennings, Platoff, Byblömen, Duke of Devonshire, Goldham's Maria, Aglaia, Walker's King, Seedling Violet, Polyphemus, Washington, Claudiana, Grotius, Triomphe Royale. 11. Mr. Hogarth, Winifred, Duke of Devonshire, Alcon, Claudiana, Platoff, Rubens, Triomphe Royale, Pilot, Rose Brilliant, Emperor of Austria, Cerise Belleforme, Bienfait. 12. Mr. Laban, Duke of Devonshire, Holmes's King, Polyphemus, Alcon, Lady Carew, Selim, Triomphe Royale, Duchess of Kent, Rose Emily, Fleur des Dames, Ophir, Reine d'Egypt. 13. Mr. Collier, Alcon, Shakspeare, Lavinia, Roi de Siam, Gloria Mundi, Triomphe Royale, Addison, Surpass Catafalque, Cerise Blanc, Grotius, Duke of Devonshire, Primo Bien du Noir. 14. Mr. G. Moring, Shakspeare, Claudiana, Washington, unknown, Triomphe Royale, Triomphe de Lisle, Platoff, Comte de Vergennes, Franciscus Primus, Walker's King, Holmes's King, unknown. 15. Mr. Wolfe, Rose Lac, Gibbons's Prince Albert, Duke of Devonshire, Van Amburg, Winifred, Tariff, Dixon's Bion, Wolfe's Rienzi, Goldham's Maria, Alcon, Polyphemus, Lawrence's Emily.

MIDLAND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

At the Arboretum, Derby.

The show was not so extensive as on former occasions, but the quality of the majority of the specimens was such that in intrinsic excellence it never was surpassed.

FUCHSIAS.—Six Distinct Varieties.—1. Mr. Wooding, with Princess, Clapton Hero, Pearl of England, Voltigeur, Hebe, Elizabeth.

FANCY PELARGONIUMS.—Six Distinct Varieties.—1. Mr. Small, Lucy Neal, Annette, Queen Superb, seedling, Criterion, Madame Weber. 2. Mr. G. Taylor, Matilda, Princess Alice Maud, Delicatum, Advancer, Criterion, Floribunda.

ROSES in Pots.—Four Distinct Varieties.—Mr. Ratcliffe, with Baron Prevost, Geant des Batailles, Bourbon Queen, Madame Laffay.

PANSIES.—Twelve Dissimilar Blooms.—1. Mr. James Slater, Emperor, Royal Standard, Duke of Sutherland, Cathcart, Royal Visit, Monarch, Miss Talbot, Flower of the Day, Polyphemus, Marchioness of Bath, Fearless, Pandora. 2. Duke of Sutherland, Cathcart, Royal Visit, Mrs. Dodwell, Emperor, Miss Talbot, Monarch, Miss Stewart, Pomona. Egæon, Glory, Fearless. 3. Mr. Walton, Flower of the Day, Yellow Climax, Duke of Perth, Beauty, Lord Palmerston, seedling, Fearless, seedling, Marchioness of Bath, Royal White, Royal Visit, seedling. 4. Mr. Small, Queen of England, Jolly Tar, Euphemia, Constellation, Alfred the Great, National, Brilliant, Elvira, Miss Talbot, Flower of the Day, Bertha, Pompey. 5. Mr. J. Walkerdine, Flower of the Day, Juventa, Miss Talbot, Duke of Sutherland, France Cycloë, Fearless, Blanche, Mr. Beck, seedling, Cathcart, Marchioness of Bath, Adela.

PANSIES in Pots.—Six Blooms.—1. Mr. Slater, Royal Visit, Father Gavazzi, Blanche, Duke of Sutherland, Mrs. Dodwell, Marchioness of Bath. 2. Mr. Riley, Marchioness of Bath, Emperor, Pomona, Polyphemus, Royal Visit, Duke of Sutherland.

TULIPS.

Six Dissimilar Blooms, one Feathered and one Flamed in each Class.—1. Mr. Godfrey, with Heroine, Triomphe Royale, Orleans, Princess Royal, Sovereign, Polyphemus. 2. Mr. Lowe, Heroine, Lady Jane Grey, Orleans, Princess Royal, Sovereign, Pilot. 3. Mr. Forman, Heroine, Triomphe Royal, Orleans, Princess Royal, Sovereign, Pilot. 4. Mr. Parkins, Heroine, Aglaia, Gem, Venus, Sovereign, Pilot. 5. Mr. Lymbury, Mary Lamb, Emily, Gem, Bacchus, Paul Pry, Shakspeare. 6. Mr. Lee, Heroine, Triomphe Royale, Orleans, Sarah Ann, Sovereign, Pilot. 7. Mr. Wroughton, La Vandicken, Heroine, Orleans, Lawrence's Friend, Duke of Devonshire, Pilot. 8. Rev. S. Creswell, Mary Lamb, Aglaia, Maid of Orleans, Bacchus, Sovereign, Pilot.

Feathered Premier, Heroine, Mr. Godfrey | Flamed Premier, Pilot, Mr. Smith

Feathered Bizarres.

- 1 Sovereign, Mr. Godfrey
- 2 Ditto, ditto
- 3 Sovereign, Mr. Lowe
- 4 Magnum Bonum, Mr. Godfrey
- 5 Sovereign, Mr. Parkins
- 6 Sovereign, Mr. Godfrey

Flamed Bizarres.

- 1 Pilot, Mr. Smith
- 2 Pilot, Mr. Parkins
- 3 Captain White, W. Worthington, Esq.
- 4 Polyphemus, Mr. Godfrey
- 5 Polyphemus, Mr. Wroughton
- 6 Polyphemus, Mr. Godfrey

Feathered Byblæmens.

- 1 Orleans, Mr. Godfrey
- 2 Sarah Ann, Mr. Allestree
- 3 Orleans, Mr. Lee
- 4 Orleans, Mr. Godfrey
- 5 Ditto, ditto
- 6 Ditto, ditto

Flamed Byblæmens.

- 1 Duchess of Sutherland, W. Worthington, Esq.
- 2 Princess Royal, Mr. Forman
- 3 Surpass le Grand, Mr. Lee
- 4 Venus, Mr. Wroughton
- 5 Orleans, Mr. Forman
- 6 Princess Royal, ditto

Feathered Roses.

- 1 Heroine, Mr. Godfrey
- 2 Ditto, ditto
- 3 Ditto, ditto
- 4 Heroine, Mr. Parkins
- 5 Heroine, Mr. Godfrey
- 6 Ditto, ditto

Flamed Roses.

- 1 Lady Catherine Gordon, Mr. Allestree
- 2 Aglaia, Mr. Godfrey
- 3 Triomphe Royale, ditto
- 4 Ditto, ditto
- 5 Lady Jane Grey, Mr. Lee
- 6 Aglaia, W. Worthington, Esq.

CAMBRIDGE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The May show of the Cambridge Horticultural Society was held on Wednesday, May 21, in the spacious and beautiful grounds of St. John's college. The judges were C. C. Babbington, Esq., of St. John's; J. Clarke, Esq., Saffron Walden; N. S. Hodson, Esq., Bury; Mr. Stratton; Mr. Reid, gardener, to the Marquis of Huntley; Mr. Rickard; and Mr. Peelling.

Twelve Tulips.—1. Mr. R. Headly. 2. Mr. B. Barratt, Lady Peel; Rosa Blanche, Triomphe Royale, Lachesis, Emperor of Russia, Carlo Dolci, Duke of Devonshire, Cyris, Gouverneur des Indes, Violet Lysander, David, Lawrence's

Friend. 3. Mr. J. Clarke, but disqualified, owing to one of the flowers having seven petals.

Six Tulips.—1. Mr. R. Headly. 2. Mr. B. Barrett, Royal Sovereign, Platoff, Rose Monti, Catalane, Violet Alexander, Triomphe du Monde. 3. Mr. Lenton.

Three Tulips.—1. Mr. R. Headly. 2. Mr. B. Barratt, Claudiana, Nourri Effendi, Themis. 3. Mr. B. Dickerson, Imperatrice de Maroc, Heroine, Lawrence's Friend.

Six Geraniums (not fancy).—1. Messrs. Hudson, Cock's Mars, Hope, Magnet, Mochanna, Duke of Cornwall, Star. 2. Messrs. Wood & Ingram, Robert Bruce, Pearl, Mrs. Lindsell, Lady Peel, Captain Rooper, Crimson King.

Geranium (not fancy).—1. Mr. R. Headly, Mochanna. 2. Messrs. Wood & Ingram, Robert Bruce.

Three Fancy Geraniums (Amateurs).—1. Mr. R. Headly, Jenny Lind, Floral Beauty, Conspicuum. 2. Mr. P. Howard, Devonian, Exquisite, Statiaski. 3. Messrs. Hudson, Fleur de Marie, Statiaski, Hero of Surrey.

Three Geraniums (not fancy, for Amateurs).—1. Mr. R. Headly, seedlings. 2. Mr. S. Adcock, Robert Bruce, Glory, seedling. 3. Mr. P. Howard, Duke of Cornwall, Phyllis, Superba.

Fancy Geranium (Amateurs).—1. Messrs. Hudson, Bride. 2. Mr. Peed, Jehu Superba. 3. Mr. S. Adcock, Princess Maria.

Geranium (not fancy).—1. Mr. R. Headly, Commissioner. 2. Mr. S. Adcock, Lady Peel.

Four Geraniums (not fancy).—1. Mr. R. Headly, Duke of Cornwall and three seedlings. 2. Messrs. Hudson, Forget me not, Firebrand, Orion, Gaines's Aspasia.

Three Azaleas (Indica).—1. Mr. E. Foster, Rosea punctata, Apollo, Exquisite. 2. Messrs. Wood & Ingram, Prince Albert, Gladstoneii, Violacea. 3. Mr. S. Adcock, Rose Variegata, Speciosa major.

Azalea.—1. Messrs. Hudson, Conspicuum.

Three Rhododendrons.—1. Mr. R. Headly, Delicata, Maculatum purpureum, Candidum.

Rhododendron.—Mr. S. Adcock, Pictum.

Three Heaths (various).—1. Mr. S. Adcock, Erica ventricosa magnifica, Erica ampulacea impressa, Erica ventricosa globosa.

Heath.—1. Mr. S. Adcock, Erica celsiana.

Six Calceolarias.—1. Mr. W. Turner. 2. Mr. S. Adcock, seedlings.

Two Calceolarias (Amateurs).—1. Mr. S. Peed, seedlings. 2. Messrs. Hudson, seedlings. 3. Mr. S. Adcock, seedlings.

Six Roses in Pots (various).—1. Mr. W. Turner.—2. Mr. W. Cumming, Souvenir de Leveson Gower, Sir John Franklin, Madame Andrea, Gloire de France, Geant des Batailles, Madame Damage.

Great praise is due to Mr. C. E. Brown, the honorary secretary, for his indefatigable exertions, and to the other members of the committee, for their anxiety in catering for the public amusement; and we hope that the success which has attended their efforts this year, will stimulate them to make it an annual festival. We are quite sure the public will duly appreciate their exertions, which we believe would be crowned with merited triumph. We understand, by a letter from Mr. C. E. Brown, that the receipts were ample enough to meet the deficit of former years, and that at an early meeting, it will be proposed to present a donation of thirty guineas to Addenbrooke's Hospital, and twenty guineas to the building fund of the Royal Albert Society.

GREAT SOUTH CHESHIRE TULIP SHOW.

This celebrated exhibition was held at the house of Mr. Merrill, Hawk Inn, Haslington, on the 31st of May, and a better display of blooms has never been seen in that neighbourhood. The judges were Mr. Ashley, Nantwich; Mr. Armon, Congleton; Mr. G. Furnival, Sandbach. The following are the awards.

Premier Prize.—Wallace, Steel. | Premier Maiden Prize.—Waterloo, C. Johnson.
Flamed Premier.—Polyphemus, S. Allcock.

Feathered Bizarres.

- 1 Unknown, Ollerhead
- 2 Magnum Bonum, S. Allcock
- 3 Waterloo, Steel
- 4 Trafalgar, S. Allcock
- 5 Charles X., Steel
- 6 Lord Milton, ditto

Flamed Bizarres.

- 1 Polyphemus, C. Johnson
- 2 Lustre, Blackshaw
- 3 Sidney, Downing
- 4 Dentonia, Steel
- 5 Unknown, Nevitt
- 6 Charles X., Ollerhead

Feathered Byblæmens.

- 1 Violet Lillard, Steel
- 2 Lady Stanley, ditto
- 3 La Belle Narene Ollerhead
- 4 Princess Royal, S. Allcock
- 5 Grace Darling, C. Johnson
- 6 Van Amburg, Steel

Flamed Byblæmens.

- 1 Alice Gray, Steel
- 2 Bienfait, Blackshaw
- 3 Unknown, Steel
- 4 Magnus, Downing
- 5 Rose Vulcan, Ollerhead
- 6 Lady Flora Hastings, S. Allcock

Feathered Roses.

- 1 Lady Crewe, Ollerhead
- 2 Comte de Vergennes, Steel
- 3 Unknown, ditto
- 4 Lady Catherine Gordon, S. Allcock
- 5 Unknown, C. Johnson
- 6 Flora, ditto

Flamed Roses.

- 1 Queen Philippa, Steel
- 2 Aglaia, Ollerhead
- 3 Village Maid, Steel
- 4 Grandissima, ditto
- 5 Duke of Newcastle, S. Allcock
- 6 Anastasia, ditto

Bizarre Breeders.

- 1 Earl Radnor, Steel
- 2 Unknown, Ollerhead

Bybloemen Breeders.

- 1 Maid of Orleans, Ollerhead
- 2 Roland, C. Johnson

Rose Breeders.

- 1 Rachel, C. Johnson
- 2 Unknown, Ollerhead

Yellow Selfs.

- 1 Min d'Or, C. Johnson
- 2 Min d'Or, Blackshaw

White Selfs.

- 1 White Perfection, Steel
- 2 White Flag, ditto

TULIP SHOW.

At Mr. Fox's, Raven Inn, Swanlow-lane, near Sandbach, June 2.

Stands of Six.—1. W. Longworth, Masterpiece, Polyphemus, Bienfait, Lord Denman, Agnes Beaumont, Aglaia. 2. T. Benion, Charles X., Sanzio, Washington, Alexander Magnus, Comte de Vergennes, Unique. 3. G. Careless, Magnum Bonum, Charles X., Lewold, Alexander Magnus, Heroine, Aglaia.

Extra Prizes, for Single Blooms.—1. J. Jervis, for Charles X. 2. J. Ollier, Comte de Vergennes. 3. J. Oakes, Black Baguet. 4. J. Sumner, Bienfait.

Feathered Bizarres.

- 1 Magnum Bonum, J. Ollier
- 2 Earl Douglas, ditto
- 3 Dentonia, W. Longworth
- 4 Charles X., ditto
- 5 Lord Milton, ditto
- 6 Charbonnier, G. Careless

Flamed Bizarres.

- 1 Polyphemus, W. Longworth
- 2 Lus're, ditto
- 3 Sanzio, G. Careless
- 4 Charbonnier, ditto
- 5 Charles X., J. Ollier
- 6 Catafalque Superieure, W. Longworth

Feathered Byblæmens.

- 1 Lady Stanley, G. Careless
- 2 Black Baguet, J. Benion
- 3 Lewold, W. Longworth
- 4 La Belle Narene, G. Careless
- 5 Bienfait, J. Ollier
- 6 Louis XVI., W. Longworth

Flamed Byblæmens.

- 1 Incomparable, W. Benion
- 2 Bienfait, W. Longworth
- 3 Louis XIV., J. Oakes

- 4 Lady Flora Hastings, W. Longworth
- 5 Prince Albert, J. Ollier
- 6 Alien, T. Benion

Feathered Roses.

- 1 Lady Crewe, W. Longworth
- 2 Comte de Vergennes, ditto
- 3 Andromeda, ditto
- 4 Dolittle, ditto
- 5 Heroine, G. Careless
- 6 Mrs. Dixon, W. Longworth

Flamed Roses.

- 1 Queen Philippa, W. Longworth
- 2 Aglaia, ditto
- 3 Lady Crewe, G. Careless
- 4 Unique, T. Benion
- 5 Vesta, T. Ollier
- 6 Triomphe Royale, W. Longworth

Breeders.

Earl Radnor (bizarre), W. Longworth
Madame Roland (byb.), G. Careless
Lady Crewe (rose), J. Ollier

Selfs.

White Perfection, T. Benion
Lady Stanley, ditto

NOTTINGHAM HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

Tuesday, June 3, at the Nottingham Arboretum.

TULIPS.

Twelve Dissimilar Blooms, Four Bizarres, Four Byblæmens, and Four Roses.
—1. Mr. Godfrey, of Chellaston, Triomphe Royale, Catafalque, La Bien Aime, Polyphemus, Maid of Orleans, Heroine, Violet le Grand, Pilot, Royal Sovereign, Comet, Princess Royal, Aglaia. 2. Mr. W. Parkinson, Derby, Royal Sovereign,

Princess Royal, Aglaia, Lady Flora Hastings, Heroine, Maid of Orleans, Shakspere, Triomphe Royale, Magnum Bonum, Gibbons's Salvator Rosa, Lady Jane Grey. 3. Mr. J. Parkins, Derby, Royal Sovereign, Chellaston Beauty, Gibbons's Salvator Rosa, Aglaia, Queen Charlotte, Magnum Bonum, Lady Jane Grey, Maid of Orleans, Triomphe Royale, Shakspeare, Heroine, Pilot. 4. Rev. S. Creswell, Radford, Strong's King, seedling, Mrs. Edgeworth, Nourri Effendi, Chellaston Beauty, Aglaia, Pilot, Bloemart, Rebecca, Cotterill's Elizabeth, Vicar of Radford, Sarah Ann. 5. Mr. J. Ward, Nottingham, Royal Sovereign unknown, Princess Royal, Heroine, Triomphe Royale, Magnum Bonum, Aid-de-Camp, Aglaia, Maid of Orleans, Black Baguet, Tricolor, Monument. 6. Mr. W. R. Lymbery, Nottingham, Polyphemus, Nepaulese Prince, Walker's Coronation, Bacchus, Queen Catherine, Triomphe Royale, Louis XVI., Vicar of Radford, Rose Guerrier, Captain White, Lord Denman, Saunder's Vivid. 7. Mr. J. Hedderley, Snenton, Merit, George Malthy, Magnet, Princess Royal, Charbonnier Noir, Arlette, Aglaia, Eliza, Catafalque, Violet Alexander, Magnum Bonum, Midland Beauty. Several other stands were set up in this class.

Three Feathered Bizarres.—1. Mr. Godfrey, Royal Sovereign, Catafalque, Magnum Bonum. 2. Mr. J. Brown, Nottingham, Royal Sovereign, Magnum Bonum, unknown. 3. Mr. J. Hedderley, Magnum Bonum, Catafalque, Royal Sovereign.

Three Flamed Bizarres.—1. Mr. W. R. Lymbery, Sir C. Napier, Pompe Funebre, Polyphemus. 2. Rev. S. Creswell, Nourri Effendi, Pilot, Hampden. 3. Mr. J. Hedderley, Pilot, Augustus, Charbonnier. 4. Mr. J. Ward, Captain White, Lord Milton, Aid de Camp.

Three Feathered Byblœmens.—1. Rev. S. Creswell, Victoria Regina, Miss Creswell, Hopton's Sarah. 2. Mr. W. R. Lymbery, Lady Denman, Lewold, Abbott's Gem. 3. Mr. J. Hedderley, disqualified, having two of the same variety.

Three Flamed Byblœmens.—1. Mr. J. Brown, no names given. 3. Mr. W. R. Lymbery, Lord Denman, New's Splendid, Maid of Orleans. 3. Mr. J. Clarke, Nottingham, Princess Royal, Maid of Orleans, Violet Alexander.

Three Feathered Roses.—1. Rev. S. Creswell, Mrs. Nelson, Lady Douro, Napoleon. 2. Mr. J. Hedderley, Aglaia, Headon, unknown. 3. Mr. W. R. Lymbery, Aglaia, Mary Lamb, Lady Denman.

Three Flamed Roses.—1. Mr. J. Ward, Triomphe Royale, Aglaia, Rose Emily. 2. Rev. S. Creswell, Waters's Rose, Triomphe Royale, Lord Derby. 3. Mr. J. Hedderley, Lady Leicester, Aglaia, Triomphe Royale. 4. Mr. W. R. Lymbery, Vicar of Radford, Triomphe Royale, Rose Emily.

Six Dissimilar Breeders.—1. Mr. J. Parkins, Derby, Alice Grey, Britannia, Violet le Grand, Catherine, Pilot, Maid of Orleans. 2. Mr. W. Parkinson, Maid of Orleans, Catherine, Pilot, Van Amburg, Duke of Hamilton, Surpass le Grand. 3. Rev. S. Creswell, seedlings. 4. Mr. G. Frearson, Ison Green, seedlings.

PANSIES.—Twenty Distinct Blooms.—1. Mr. Small, Alfred the Great, Jolly Tar, Marchioness of Bath, Yellow Model, Flower of the Day, Queen of England, British Queen, Bean's Supreme, Pompey, Euphemia, Constance, Sir Philip Sidney, Eva, National, Ibrahim Pacha, Mr. Beck, Miss Talbot, Juventa, Brilliant, Charles Turner.

Tuesday, July 3, at the Arboretum, Nottingham.

ROSES.—Twenty-four Dissimilar Blooms (Amateurs and Dealers).—1. Mr. T. Mallet, Paul Perris, General Jacqueminot, Madame Rivers, P. Keeant, Amandine, Madame Massan, Prince Leon, Coupe d'Hebe, L'Enfant du Mont Carmel, Frederick II., Jules Margottin, William Griffiths, La Ville de Bruxelles, Geant des Batailles, Duchess of Sutherland, Baron Prevost, Blarii, William Jesse, Mrs. Elliott, General Megrier, General Kleber, Madame Lamoriciere, Madame Toutman, Captain Sisolet. 2. Mr. J. Frettingham, Toton, Chenedole, Laura Raymond, Madame Laffay, Devoniensis, Lion de Combat, Baron Prevost, Madame Peppin, Mrs. Elliott, Amandine, Triomphe de Paris, Duchess of Sutherland, Geant des Batailles, Cramoise Superieure, Paul Ricaut, Salvator Rosa, Clemence Isine, General Castelon, William Jesse, Doctor Gillard, Coupe d'Hebe, Madame Angelina, Jules Margottin, William Griffiths, Captain Charpin.

ROSES.—Eighteen Blooms (Amateurs).—1. Mr. T. Mallet, Paul Ricaut, Paul Perris, L'Enfant du Mont Carmel, Baron Prevost, Madame Laffay, Blairn, Sombreuil, Duchess of Sutherland, Coupe d'Hebe, Archduke Charles, Geant des Batailles, Devigne, La Ville de Bruxelles, William Jesse, Blanche fleur, Madame Lamoriciere, Souvenir du 30 Mar, Jules Margottin.

RANUNCULUSES.—Twelve Distinct Blooms, excluding Turbans.—1. Mr. S. Taylor, Maria Lightbody, Orange Brabazon, Talisman, Margottin, Hole's

Salamander, Mælenz, Beauty, Miss Tyson, Taylor's Stripe, Lightbody's Self, Oscar, seedling (Frearson), Keyne's No. 15.

PINKS.—Twelve Blooms, not less than Nine distinct Varieties.—1. Mr. James Taylor, Lord Beners, Queen (Bunkell), Sarah (Turner), Lord Berners, seedling, Sarah (Turner), Queen (Bunkell), Laura (Williner), Fairy Queen, Rienzi (Taylor), Mary Ann, Perfection. 2. Mr. G. Frearson, seedling, New Criterion, Turner's Sarah, Huntsman, Prince Albert, Purity, Laura, Criterion, Joseph Sturge, Beauty of Leicester, Perfection, Turner's Sarah.

PANSIES—Twenty Distinct Blooms.—1. Mr. Rowland, seedling, Memnon, seedling, Paxton, France Cyclo, Owen Glendower, British Queen, Duke of Sutherland, Queen of England, seedling, Climax, Duke of Perth, Adela, Charles Turner, Miss Talbot, Pandora, seedling, Medora, Fearless, Blanche. 2. Mr. G. Small, Mr. Beck, Miss Talbot, three seedlings, Lablache, Royal Standard, Boadicea, Diadem, Sir P. Sidney, Mr. Lacon, Blanche, Lady Carrington, Duke of Perth, Pompey, Jolly Tar, Brilliant, Elton, Aphid, Adela.

Six Show Pelargoniums.—1. Messrs. Small, Optima, Luna, Flying Dutchman, Butterfly, Lucy, Princess Royal.

Six Fancy Pelargoniums.—1. Sir T. G. A. Parkyns, Bart., John Bull, Reine des Francals, Empress, Lady Hume Campbell, Queen Victoria, Bride. 2. Messrs. Small, Empress Eugénie, Criterion, Madame Webbe, Lady Raglan, Barbette, Annette.

Six Scarlet Pelargoniums.—1. Messrs. Small, Collins's Superb, Victoria, Hendersonii, Seedling No. 11, Commander-in-Chief, Seedling No. 28. 2. Mr. R. J. Beard, Commander-in-Chief, Cerise unique, Queen of Summer, Queen Victoria, Tom Thumb, seedling.

Six Fuchsias.—1. Mr. R. J. Beard, Diadem of Flora, Duchess of Lancaster, Queen of Hanover, Nil desperandum, Glory, Nonsuch.

REDGATE INN (LONGTON) TULIP SHOW.

Pans.—1. A. Shaw, Charles X., Polyphemus, Countess of Flanders, Salvator Rosa, Heroine, Aglaia. 2. A. Hollinshead, Charles X., Violet Amiable, No. 15, Amelia, Triomphe Royale. 3. W. Emory, Rising Sun, Polyphemus, Ambassador, Princess Royal, Non plus ultra, Aglaia. 4. T. Boot, Magnum Bonum, Pilot, Baguet, Princess Royal, Amelia, Aglaia. 5. J. Johnson, Charles X., Sanzio, General Barneveldt, Queen Charlotte, Andromeda, Aglaia. 6. E. Eardley, Charles X., Sanzio, Ambassador, Emily, Aglaia, Aglaia. 7. H. Penson, Charles X., Charles X., unknown, Princess Royal, Walworth, Aglaia. 8. D. Brown, Rufus, Cossack, Baguet, Princess Royal, Heroine, Triomphe Royale.

Feathered Bizarres.

- 1 Charles X., A. Hollinshead
- 2 Charles X., J. Johnson
- 3 Magnum Bonum, A. Shaw
- 4 Lord Lilford, E. Eardley
- 5 Catafalque ditto
- 6 Seedling, D. Brown
- 7 Rising Sun, T. Boot

Flamed Bizarres.

- 1 Vivid, J. Johnson
- 2 Catafalque, A. Shaw
- 3 Polyphemus, A. Hollinshead
- 4 Vivid, A. Shaw
- 5 Nelson, ditto
- 6 Lord Milton, J. Johnson
- 7 La Negress, A. Hollinshead

Feathered Byblæmens.

- 1 Gibbons's 71, A. Shaw
- 2 Maid of Orleans, ditto
- 3 Addison, J. Johnson
- 4 Countess of Flanders, A. Shaw
- 5 Grotius, ditto
- 6 Perfection, ditto
- 7 Mentor, W. Emory

Flamed Byblæmens.

- 1 Salvator Rosa, A. Shaw
- 2 Professor, ditto
- 3 Gibbons, J. Johnson
- 4 Prince Elie, ditto
- 5 Princess Royal, W. Emory

6 Czariune, W. Emory

7 Superb en Noir, A. Shaw

Feathered Roses.

- 1 Comte de Vergennes, A. Shaw
- 2 Amelia, A. Hollinshead
- 3 Andromeda, T. Boot
- 4 Heroine, ditto
- 5 Aglaia, A. Shaw
- 6 Bion, ditto
- 7 Village Maid, ditto

Flamed Roses.

- 1 Aglaia, E. Eardley
- 2 Triomphe Royale, D. Brown
- 3 Clio, J. Johnson
- 4 Aglaia, T. Boot
- 5 Athalia, A. Hollinshead
- 6 Grace Darling, ditto
- 7 Village Maid, A. Shaw

Bizarre Breeders.

- 1 Felix Nef, A. Shaw
- 2 Sir Joseph Paxton, J. Johnson
- 3 King, ditto

Byblæmen Breeders.

- 1 Maid of Orleans, W. Emory
- 2 Unknown, T. Boot
- 3 Purity, A. Shaw

Rose Breeders.

- 1 Rosabelle, J. Johnson
- 2 Lady Catherine Gordon, T. Boot
- 3 Anastasia, W. Emory

ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

EXCELSIOR'S NOTES ON THE EXHIBITIONS.

MR. EDITOR,—At your request, I have taken up my pen, to give your readers a few notes on the best flowers shown at two or three of our leading exhibitions, and in doing this, I have been very careful to look merely at the flowers, and leave the men out of the question. This is the only way to secure the confidence of all, and render the judgment impartial; and although I may perhaps offend some of the parties who exhibited, still I know that it is my duty to speak only of the flowers as I found them.

I am a great lover of flowers in their most perfect form, and I like to cultivate them, but my pleasure does not consist in staging them for exhibition; and as I never show at all, no one can accuse me of being an unsuccessful exhibiter.

I shall at all times be most happy to assist you, and only regret that I have not held out to you the helping hand before.

The Buckingham floral and horticultural exhibition is the first I shall make a few remarks on. Wednesday, July 30, was the great red letter day of the Buckingham Almanack, and perhaps never, on any previous occasion, was there so large an attendance of exhibitors, or such really good productions, at Buckingham, as on this occasion. The day was fine, visitors (especially the ladies) plentiful, and the whole exhibition pleasing. The admirable band of the First Life Guards, together with the Bucks Yeomanry band, played some beautiful pieces, which tended much to enliven the scene. An excellent dinner was given in the town hall, at which his grace the Duke of Buckingham presided, and in the evening, a display of fireworks wound up the proceedings. We may congratulate the good people of Buckingham on having one of the best societies, and on producing one of the best shows in the kingdom.

Amongst the subjects exhibited for the all England prizes, Mr. Turner, of Slough, was first, with Dahlias, and Mr. Walker, of Thame, was second, but the season was not sufficiently advanced for the production of really first-rate flowers. Messrs. Lane, of Berkhamstead, were first in Roses, with a large and varied collection, the most noticeable flowers of which were, *Leon des Combats*, *Rossini*, *Margottin*, *Dupetit Thouars*, *General Castellan*, *Comte de Paris*, *Comte de Montijo*, *Calypso*, *Moere*, *Souvenir d'un Ami*, *William Griffith*. *Adam*, *Souvenir de Leveson Gower*, *General Cavaignac*, *L'Enfant du Mont Carmel*, and a large box of *General Jacqueminot*, perhaps the highest scented rose we possess. The second prize was awarded to Messrs. Toder, of Barton, near Woodstock. Messrs. Toder were first in cut Geraniums, with some very pretty varieties. Mr. Fryer, of Aylesbury, was first in six Fuchsias, the best of which was *Duchess of Lancaster*. Mr. W. Shipley, gardener to Henry Smith, Esq., of Moreton, also exhibited six, the best of which was *Lady Dartmouth*. Mr. Bloxham, gardener to the Rev. J. Cooke, was first with three Fuchsias, and Mrs. Elkington, of Buckingham, was second. Mr. Newman, gardener to S. W. Loundes, Esq., of Wadden Hall, was first with six stove and greenhouse plants, among which were *Clerodendron squamatum*, *Kolosanthes coccinea*, and *Erythrina Crista galli*. Mr. Newman was also first with six Achimenes, very fine, *Venusta*, *Kluisii*, *Longiflora*, *L. alba*, *Grandiflora*, and *Rosea*. The same exhibiter was also first with six splendid Gloxinias. Amongst the Carnations were some very good blooms. Mr. Bragg, of Slough, was first, with *Bardolph*, *Christopher Sly*, *Garland*, *Falconbridge*, *Poor Tom* (ex. ex.), *Rainbow*, *Athelstan*, *Exit*, *Black Diamond*, *Puxley's Prince Albert*, and *Admiral Curzon*. Mr. Turner was second, with *Tenby Rival*, *Flora's Garland*, *Acca* (S.B., fine), *Lord Ranciffe*, *Jacques*, *Falconbridge*, *Queen Victoria*, *Mr. Strutt*, *Comet*, and *Count Pauline*. The last three were past their best. Mr. C. Turner was first in Picotees, with *Queen Victoria*, *Eugenie*, *Mr. Holt*, *Mrs. Drake*, *National* (a very good flower), *Prince Albert*, *Mrs. Headly*, *Dr. Pitman*, *Sultana*, *Miss Holbeck*, *Countess*, and *Eliza*. Mr. Turner was first with Hollyhocks: his best flowers were *Miss Nightingale*, *Brennus*, *Standard*, *Purple Perfection*, *Pourpre de Tyre*, and *Yellow Model*. Mr. Bragg was second, with but poor flowers. In Verbenas, Mr. Turner was first, with *Reine des Amazones*, *Standard Bearer* (fine purple), *Celestial*, *Quargantine* (very, very poor white), *Pre-eminent*, *Charles Dickens*, *Geant des Batailles*, *Field Marshal*, *Mademoiselle de Monde*, *Belle of the Village*, and *Noel* (fine scarlet). Mr. Elkington was second, with very good flowers. The best were *Sir Colin Campbell*, *Caliban*, *King of Roses*, *Lord Raglan*, and *Julie*. For the collection of cut flowers, Mr. Empson, of Stowe, was first. Mr. Shipley had the first

collection of fruits, consisting of fifteen dishes, containing good examples of Elruge Nectarines, Royal George Peaches, Victoria and Orleans Plums, Black Hamburgh and Royal Muscadine Grapes, Gordon Castle Melons, and British Queen, Helena, and Elton Pine Strawberries. The Strawberry prize, which generally excites so much interest at Buckingham, was this year awarded to Mr. R. Underhill, of Edgbaston, Birmingham, for Sir Harry. Mr. Shipley was second, with fruit of Helena, far superior to Sir Harry, in regard of size, colour, form, and general appearance, the prize having been awarded on the ground of flavour only.

In the class for nurserymen and gentlemen's gardeners, Mr. Newman had prizes for Fuchsias and greenhouse plants; Mr. Bloxham, for bedding Geraniums; Mr. W. Myatt, of Banbury, for Verbenas; Mr. Shipley, for Royal George Peaches, Black Hamburgh Grapes, and Dahlias; and Mr. Munton, Banbury, for Melons.

In the amateur class, there was some severe competition. Mr. Elkington had prizes for Carnations, Picotees, Verbenas, and Zinnias; Mr. Grimby, of Banbury, for Verbenas and Marigolds; Mr. Ridge, Whittlebury, for Roses; Mr. Martin, for Stocks; and F. Duke, Esq., for Cucumbers.

The show of cottagers' productions was very large, there being nearly fifty exhibitors in this class. The model gardens exhibited by them showed pretty well the idea of what a working man's cottage and garden might be.

The second of the season was the National Carnation and Picotee show, held in conjunction with the exhibition of the Handsworth Horticultural Society, in the grounds of the Leverets, by permission of W. H. Dawes, Esq.. The Leverets is a charming place, and the exhibition was held in three large marquees. The day was really delightful, and the band of, I believe, the Tenth Hussars, greatly contributed to the enjoyment, with some really finely-executed music. Among the judges, I was happy to see our old friends, Mr. Holland and Mr. Schoefield, of Manchester.

Of the flowers, I cannot speak from my own notes, as, unfortunately, they were left behind, but being in shorthand, would be of little use to any one. However, with the help of the notes of a fellow traveller, coupled with my own recollections, I hope I shall not fall far short of the right flowers; and with a list of prizes, kindly forwarded by the Handsworth secretary, Mr. Perry, I think I may be relied on.

In Carnations, Mr. Turner took the first prize. His best flowers consisted of Victoria Regina (S.F.), Hope, Jenny Lind (C.B.), and King John (R.F.) Mr. Keynes, in taking the second prize, exhibited Flora's Garland, Splendour, and Mr. Ainsworth (S.B.) The third prize fell to the lot of Mr. R. R.

Oswald, of New Vauxhall, near Birmingham. His four best flowers were Lady Curzon, Admiral Curzon, Flora's Garland, and Beauty of Woodhouse.

In the private growers' class, Mr. Steward, of York, bore off the first prize. His stars were Admiral Curzon, Falconbridge, Squire Meynell, and Sarah Payne. The premier prize was also secured by Mr. Steward, with the first-named flower. The second prize was taken by Mr. Dodwell, who showed a seedling, Lorenzo, and Admiral Curzon; and in this pan I also observed the new Nottingham flower, Sportsman. Mr. S. Eyre, of Snenton, took the third prize, Lord Milton, Lord Rancilffe, and Lord Byron being his best flowers. Mr. Brown carried off the fourth, his favourites being Uncle Tom, Admiral Curzon, Lord Rancilffe, and Beauty of Woodhouse.

In the pans of six blooms, the most noticeable flowers were Victoria Regina, King John (a seedling of 1855), Jenny Wilton, Hope, Admiral Curzon, Lorenzo, and Lovely Ann.

In Picotees, Mr. Turner was again first. His principal flowers were Mrs. Lockner (H.R.), Amy Robsart (L.P.), Alfred, Mrs. Hoyle (H.R.), Charles Turner (L.R.) The second prize was taken by Mr. Keynes, of Salisbury, his best blooms being Mrs. Kelk, Amy Robsart, and Mrs. Hoyle. Mr. Oswald was third. His Miss Wake, Finis, Bertha, Lady Franklin, and Laura were in really very fine condition.

It is a rather singular coincidence that Mr. Turner took the first prize for Carnations and Picotees, Mr. Keynes took both the second, and Mr. Oswald the third prizes for the same flowers.

In the second class of Picotees, the first prize was awarded to Mr. Dodwell, who showed Eugenie, Lord Nelson, Amy Robsart, and Miss Holbeck. The second prize was borne off by Mr. John Bayley, who exhibited Bayley's Seedling and Amy Robsart. Mr. Samuel Eyre and Mr. H. Steward took the third prize, they being declared equal. Mr. Eyre's flowers were Mrs. Eyre, Amy Robsart, Miss Holbeck, and Robin Hood. From this collection the premier was chosen, Mrs. Eyre well meriting that honour. The flower is a seedling, purchased by Mr. Eyre, and is remarkable for its good quality, its perfect edge, good form, and freedom from spot or blemish, and in my humble opinion, will prove to be one of the best, if not the very best flower, next season. Mr. Steward's best flowers were Countess, Mr. Hedderly, Amy Robsart, Lord Nelson, Alfred, Prince of Wales, and Miss Holbeck. The fourth prize was awarded to Mr. S. Brown, whose best flowers were Mrs. Drake, Amy Robsart, and Alfred.

Amongst the class of six Picotees, the best flowers exhibited were Mrs. Hoyle, Mrs. Lockner, Amy Robsart, Charles Turner, Mr. May, Mr. Turner, Finis, Countess, and Drake. In the above lists, I have noticed the best flowers, according to my

own opinion, and I think it may perhaps be as well just to give the names of the gentlemen who took prizes.

CARNATIONS.

Twelve Dissimilar Blooms.—1. Mr. Turner. 2. Mr. Keynes. 3. Mr. Oswald.

Twelve Blooms, not fewer than Nine Varieties (Private).—1. H. Steward, Esq. 2. Mr. Dodwell. 3. Mr. Eyre.

Six Dissimilar Varieties.—1. Mr. Turner. 2. Mr. Dodwell. 3. Mr. Keynes.

Single Specimens.—*Scarlet Bizarres*—1. Mr. Keynes. 2. Mr. Eyre. 3. H. Steward, Esq. 4. Mr. J. S. Hedderly. 5. H. Steward, Esq.—*Crimson Bizarres*—1. Mr. Turner. 2. H. Steward, Esq. 3. Mr. Dodwell. 4. Mr. Turner. 5. Mr. Keynes.—*Pink or Purple*—1. Mr. Turner. 2. Ditto 3. Mr. E. Wood. 4. Mr. Turner. 5. Ditto.—*Rose Flakes*—1. H. Steward, Esq. 2. Mr. Dodwell. 3. Mr. Keynes. 4. Mr. Dodwell. 5. Mr. Keynes.—*Scarlet Flakes*—1, 2, 3, 4, 5. Mr. J. S. Hedderly.—*Purple Flakes*—1. Mr. Keynes. 2. Mr. Dodwell. 3. H. Steward, Esq. 4. Mr. Dodwell. 5. H. Steward. Premier.—Admiral Curzon, H. Steward, Esq.

PICOTEE.

Twelve Dissimilar Blooms.—1. Mr. Turner. 2. Mr. Keynes. 3. Mr. Oswald.

Twelve Blooms, not less than Nine Varieties.—1. Mr. Dodwell. 2. Mr. Bayley. 3. Mr. Eyre and Mr. Steward. 4. Mr. S. Brown.

Six Dissimilar Blooms.—1. Mr. Turner. 2. Mr. Dodwell. 3. H. Steward, Esq.

Single Specimens.—*Heavy Purple-edged*—1. H. Steward, Esq. 2. Ditto. 3. Mr. Dodwell. 4. Mr. Wood. 5. Mr. Keynes.—*Light Purple-edged*—1. H. Steward, Esq. 2. Ditto. 3. Mr. Dodwell. 4. Mr. Wood. 5. Mr. Keynes.—*Heavy Red-edged*—1. Mr. Turner. 2. Ditto. 3. Mr. J. S. Hedderly. 4. Mr. Keynes. 5. Mr. Taylor.—*Light Red-edged*—1. Mr. Turner. 2. Ditto. 3. Mr. Dodwell. 4. Mr. Turner. 5. Ditto.—*Heavy Rose-edged*—1. Mr. Turner. 2. Ditto. 3. Mr. Taylor. 4. Mr. Turner. 5. Mr. Keynes.—*Light Rose-edged*—1. Mr. Dodwell. 2. Ditto. 3. Mr. Keynes. 4. Ditto. 5. Mr. Hedderly.

Premier.—Mrs. Eyre, Mr. S. Eyre.

The Handsworth Society show was a truly good one. Mr. Perry, the secretary, took the extra prize for Verbenas, with some very good blooms. Dahlias were very small. Mr. Underhill's Sir Harry Strawberry was again victor. A first-class certificate of merit was awarded to Mr. Turner, for a light red edged Picotee, called Mr. Turner, which is a good flower of its class. A first-class certificate was also awarded to Mr. J. S. Hedderly, of Snenton, for a scarlet flake Carnation, named Sportsman, a sport from Admiral Curzon. This flower possesses all the fine qualities of its parent, with the exception of its being a scarlet flake instead of a bizarre. Another certificate was awarded to Mr. Samuel Eyre, of Snenton, near Nottingham, for the new premier Picotee, Mrs. Eyre, an opinion of which I have already given. A certificate was also conferred on Mr. Addis, for a new purple flake

seedling Carnation of considerable merit, named Earl of Stamford.

It was on Tuesday, August the 12th, I started, with a party of Nottingham florists, to visit the exhibition of the Midland Horticultural Society, which took place at the Park, said to be near the Railway Station, but which I thought a good distance from that place. About one o'clock a rather violent storm broke overhead, which must have kept back many of the *elite* of Derby; but towards two o'clock a larger number of persons were present than might have been expected, considering the dampness of the atmosphere. The exhibition took place in tents. The Park rather disappointed me, the good folks of Nottingham being led to expect a much finer place by the numerous coloured placards which were posted thickly all over the town, and the flowing language of the advertisements. The exhibition was really one of Picotees, Carnations, and Hollyhocks; all the other flowers were secondary considerations. The Dahlias exhibited by Mr. Turner were very far behind what they should have been, and I can state, on my own authority, that twenty-four might have been cut several times over near Nottingham, that would have far eclipsed them. This is a singular fact, as I always supposed that the down-south men were much before us midlanders in respect to earliness. Several pans of twenty-fours would have been shown, but for the fact that there was only one prize, and some way or other the growers had got the idea, and fondled it till they thought that it was meant for *one* man. The Hollyhocks were very good indeed. Those exhibited by friend Chater were grand. The best flowers consisted of Resplendent, Optima, Grandus, Sir W. Middleton, Empress, Autocrat, Lilac Queen, Canary, Walden Gem, Walden Masterpiece, Beauty of Walden, Queen of Buffs, Ochroleuca, and Ceres, and were far before anything we have ever seen. Indeed, without the Hollyhocks, the exhibition would have been tame. Mr. Cranston's flowers were good, and Mr. Cooling's were also worthy of attention. The Picotees were good, as were the Carnations, amongst which Sportsman was again a favourite. In Picotees, Mr. Barnard, Mrs. Turner, and Florence Nightingale were exquisite. The collection of greenhouse and stove plants was nothing more than ordinary. A few good Achimenes were shown. A very fine dish of Potatoes was shown, which we could not make out the name of, some stating them to be Lapstone Kidneys, others affirmed they were Jackson's Seedlings. Whichever they were, they were the best we ever saw, and should any gentleman be acquainted with them, we should like to know a little more about them. Perhaps some of our friends can enlighten us on the subject. The Potatoes referred to had a light skin, and were somewhat the shape of Lapstone Kidneys. The Celery

exhibited was very good. A Dahlia, named Lady Popham, was awarded a first-class certificate; but in my opinion the centre is much too low, otherwise it is a rather pretty flower. It was exhibited by Mr. Turner, and if this fault is outgrown, as it was shown out of character, it *may* prove itself a good flower; but as I saw it, I had not a very favourable opinion of it. A band enlivened the proceedings, and played a pretty selection of music, and, altogether, the exhibition did very well.

I herewith append an award of prizes:—

CARNATIONS.

Twelve Blooms.—1. King John, Sir J. Paxton, Admiral Curzon, Squire Meynell, Friar Lawrence, Lorenzo, Lord Milton, Admiral Curzon, Comet, Black Diamond, Julia, and Lord Goderich, Mr. Dodwell. 2. Premier, Admiral Curzon, Lovely Ann, Christopher Sly, Admiral Curzon, seedling, Lord Goderich, Squire Meynell, Lord Milton, Julia, Cradley Pet, and Young Milton, Mr. Bayley. 3. Hope, King John, Hope, King John, Premier, Admiral Curzon, seedling, Admiral Curzon, Lord Ranccliffe, Poor Tom, Lord Milton, and Earl of Leicester, Mr. Eyre. 4. Admiral Curzon, Premier, Lorenzo, Christopher Sly, Lorenzo, Milton, Mr. Ainsworth, Fanny, Lovely Ann, Exit, unknown, and Admiral Curzon, Mr. Fisher. 5. William IV., Lord Milton, Sir J. Paxton, Cradley Pet, Admiral Curzon, Squire Meynell, Franklin, Admiral Curzon, Firebrand, Lord Lewisham, Squire Meynell, and Lovely Ann, Mr. Parkinson.

Six Blooms.—1. Lord Ranccliffe, Wilfred, Lord Milton, Sarah Payne, Premier, and Friar Lawrence, Mr. Fisher. 2. Admiral Curzon, Sportsman, Madame Sontag, Lord Milton, Squire Meynell, and Lord Ranccliffe, Mr. Hedderly. 3. Firebrand, Lorenzo, Admiral Curzon, Lord Ranccliffe, Captain Franklin, Premier, Mr. Parkinson.

Single Specimens.—*Scarlet Bizarres*—1, 2. Mr. Ainsworth. 3, 4, 5, 6. Admiral Curzon.—*Crimson Bizarres*—1. Black Diamond. 2. Lord Goderich. 3, 4, 5, 6. Lord Milton.—*Pink Bizarres*—1, 2. Sarah Payne. 3, 4, 5. Alice (Dodwell).—*Purple Flakes*—1. Squire Meynell. 2, 3, 4. Premier. 5. Julia. 6. Premier.—*Scarlet Flakes*—1, 2. Sportsman. 3. Comet. 4. Ivanhoe. 5, 6. Sportsman.—*Rose Flakes*—1, 2. Friar Lawrence. 3. Uncle Tom. 4. Hartley's Seedling. 5. King John. 6. Lorenzo.

Premier.—Squire Meynell, Mr. J. Bayley.

PICOTEES.

Twelve Blooms.—1. Mrs. Headly, Mrs. Turner, Amy Robsart, Green's Queen, Mrs. Barnard, Mrs. Bayley, Mrs. Norman, Florence Nightingale, Venus, Bazillai, Alfred, and Alice, Mr. Dodwell. 2. Mrs. Bayley, Mrs. Turner, Mrs. Norman, Mrs. Bayley, Mrs. Barnard, Mrs. Norman, Mrs. Turner, Amy Robsart, Venus, Amy Robsart, Miss Holbeck, and Duke of Devonshire, Mr. Bayley. 3. Mrs. Barnard, Amy Robsart, Mrs. Headly, Mrs. Barnard, Mrs. Norman, Venus, Alfred, Mrs. Norman, Venus, Haidee, Rosetta, and Slater's Seedling, Mr. Fisher. 4. Mrs. Bayley, Mrs. Norman, Ganymede, Green's Queen, Mrs. Drake, Amy Robsart, Prince of Wales, unknown, Ganymede, Mrs. Barnard, Lord Nelson, and Mrs. Norman, Mr. Eyre. 5. Mrs. Norman, Mrs. Barnard, Amy Robsart, Mrs. Norman, Amy Robsart, Miss Holbeck, Lady Grenville, Alfred, Lord Nelson, Amy Robsart, Duke of Rutland, and Lord Nelson, Mr. J. Walton. 6. Mr. Parkinson.

Six Blooms.—1. Mrs. Norman, Princess Royal, Mrs. Bayley, Queen, Lord Nelson, and Amy Robsart, Mr. Hedderly. 2. Alired, Mrs. Barnard, Green's Queen, Mrs. Norman, Miss Holbeck, and Mrs. Bayley, Mr. Walton. 3. Lord Nelson, Mrs. Barnard, Esther, Mrs. Norman, Haidee, and Mrs. Bayley, Mr. Parkinson. 4. Amy Robsart, Mrs. Headly, Slater's Seedling, Venus, Rosetta, and Mrs. Norman, Mr. Fisher.

Single Specimens.—*Heavy-edged Red*—1. Mrs. Dodwell. 2, 3, 4. Mrs. Norman. 5. Mrs. Hoyle. 6. Mrs. Norman.—*Light-edged Red*—1, 3, 3, 4. Miss Holbeck. 5. Gem.—*Heavy-edged Purple*—1, 2, 3. Mrs. Bayley. 4, 5, 6. Lord Nelson.—*Light-edged Purple*—1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. Amy Robsart.—*Heavy-edged Rose*—1, 2. Alice. 3. Helen. 4. Queen. 5, 6. Venus.—*Light-edged Rose*—1, 2, 3, 4. Mrs. Barnard. 5. Florence Nightingale. 6. Mrs. Turner.

Premier.—Amy Robsart, Mr. Dodwell.

ROSES.

Twenty-four Blooms.—1. Col. de Rougemont, Geant des Batailles, Pactolus, Jules Margottin, Louise de Savoie, Comte de Paris, William Griffith, Acidalie, Madame Damage, Pigeron, Souvenir d'un Ami, Docteur Leprestre, Louise Peronny, Souvenir de la Malmaison, Gen. Jacqueminot, Gloire de Dijon, Prince Albert, Dr. Marx, Madame Phelip, Prince Leon, Vicomtesse de Cazes, Louis Odier, La Quintyue, and Souvenir d'un Ami, Mr. J. Cranston.

Twelve Bunches.—1. La Reine, Souvenir de la Malmaison, Laura Raymond, Nephotos, Geant des Batailles, Souvenir d'un Ami, Dupetit Thouars, Madame Rivers, Paul Joseph, Prince Leon, and Devoniensis, Mr. Allestree.

HOLLYHOCKS.

Forty-eight Flowers.—1. Walden Masterpiece, Sir Wm. Middleton, Lady C. Neville, Ochroleuca, Purple King, Pallas, Queen of Buffs, Sulphur Queen, Grandus, Sceptre d'Or, Nil desperandum, Ceres, Lizzy, Rosy Morn, Exquisite, Canary, Salmonis, Elegantissima, Lord Roslin, Lord Jocelyn, Leonora, Mont Blanc, Walden Gem, Comet, Saturn, Satellite, Beauty of Walden, Hon. Mrs. H. Ashley, Ignea, and Beauty of Cheshunt, Mr. Chater, Saffron Walden. 2. Eva, Walden Rival, General Bem, Felicia, Queen of England, seedling, Eva, Black Prince, Seedling No. 2, Lizzy, Walden Gem, Emily, Sulphur Queen, Lizzy, Black Prince, two seedlings, Ophir, Unique, seedling, Blue Beard, Elegans, Safrano, Felicia, Lady Neville, Sulphur Queen, Walden Rival, Lady Neville, Orestes, Sir D. Wedderburn, Emily, seedling, Shaded Model, Agricola, seedling, Agricola, Lilac Model, and Lady Braybrook, Mr. J. Cranston.

Spikes.—1. Beauty of Walden, Walden Masterpiece, Mont Blanc, Walden Gem, Canary, Lilac Queen, and Autocrat, Mr. Chater. 2. Mr. Cooling, with seedlings.

DAHLIAS.

Twenty-four Blooms.—1. Lady Popham, Duchess of Wellington, Lord Palmerston, Lord Bath, Pre-eminent, Duchess of Cambridge, Constancy, Yellow Beauty, Grand Sultan, Captain Ingram, Lass o' Gowrie, Sir F. Bathurst, Rachel Rawlings, Essex Triumph, Lollipop, Cossack, Standard, and Colonel Windham, Mr. Turner.

Six Blooms.—1. Duke of Wellington, Ringleader, Lord Bath, Fanny Keynes, Amazon, and Summit of Perfection, Mr. Woodings. 2. General Faucher, Annie, Lord Bath, Rachel Rawlings, Beauty of Versailles, and Triumphant, Mr. J. Walton.

EXCELSIOR.

A VISIT TO YORKSHIRE AND DERBYSHIRE, WITH A PEEP AT CHATSWORTH.

THE occasion, a horticultural show in the Museum Gardens, at York, tempted us to take a journey per rail, and we were not a little gratified by the general appearance of things in that quarter. Not only did many of the productions equal those of the metropolis, but the great muster of the nobility and gentry of the county showed that horticulture and floriculture are deeply rooted there. The Geraniums would have shared the honours with our most successful cultivators near town, and would have graced the tables of Chiswick or the Regent's Park. The competition, too, was respectable. The losing collections had their fate decided by the season, not the growth. They were not quite so fully in flower. The plants in one more week would have changed places, for the best would have declined, and the others been in fine order. Pansies were well shown, and the sorts well up to the mark. Roses were excellent and plentiful; Verbenas much better and cleaner grown than ever we have seen them near London. Ranunculuses a good average quality; the growth rather small than otherwise. Pinks in great plenty, but not good; they bore the marks of an unfavourable season. Gloxineas and Achimenes first-rate. Coniferæ and Ferns good and abundant; there were many collections of both. Stove and greenhouse plants unequal, some very fine, and others middling. Several collections of Orchids were good. Bouquets in large numbers, very tasteful, and made with rare flowers. One of the classes of these were the productions of ladies, for a rich prize given by the president, and well was it contested. After exhausting the arguments pro and con, a jury decided by each writing the number of that which he considered the best, and there were all the judges of the various departments on the jury for deciding this particular award. The winning bouquet had only a majority of one, and all we need say on the subject is, that the decision was just. There was

good room for a difference of opinion amongst unpractised censors, but no good judge could object to the decision. Mr. Baines, the curator of the Museum, exhibited a combination of the aquarium and the wooden case, in which the natural inhabitants of the water, plants, insects, and fishes, played their part; while the land plants flourished above; and a lady—we understood she was his daughter—contributed a grand display of wax flowers. The vegetables, and especially those of the cottagers, were grand. Among the single specimen plants there was a *Brugmansea suaveolens*—the old *Datura arborea*—as handsome as had ever been exhibited. It was a standard plant, with an immense head, and as many blooms as leaves. This was a noble object, and its countless flowers were as clean as if it had been grown on the table and never moved. Backhouse and Son contributed many things to the show, and the committee's arrangements were excellent. A curious incident was the cause of some conversation. While the exhibition was going on at the Museum, Mr. Edwards, the nurseryman, had a show of *Geraniums* to himself, in the Priory Gardens, not far distant. It appeared he had quarrelled with the society, and therefore got shut out from competition, and he, whether wisely or not we cannot decide, engaged a band, and had a tent respectably filled with a collection of *Geraniums*, to which he invited the public at half-price. Some, like ourselves, went to see his plants, and they did him great credit; but the visitors were few in comparison with the thousands who congregated at the Museum Gardens, which, apart from the show, are exceedingly interesting, on account of some splendid remains of St. Mary's Priory, a ruined tower, and fine landscape scenery. From York we went to Sheffield, and paid a visit to the Botanic Gardens, the conservatory of which is upon an extensive scale. There are many fine plants, that want the knife a good deal, and some of the worst *Balsams* we ever saw, except at Chiswick. The outer gardens are in pretty good order, but there are symptoms of a weak

exchequer. It would take a good deal of labour to keep them up in first-rate order. Our next visit was to Chatsworth, where the truly noble domain of the Duke of Devonshire is open to the public, rich as it is in works of art, and unrivalled as it is in some of those objects which enrich a garden. Of the house we will say but little, except that it contains a glorious collection of sculpture, paintings, sketches, antiques, and works of ancient and modern ingenuity, and that in many features it puts our royal residences into the shade. The garden is unique, displaying the various styles, French, Italian, and natural landscape; gigantic rock-work, upon a scale of grandeur which none would credit to be artificial except upon the indisputable authority furnished. Water in various forms, the gliding river which flows through the grounds, the dashing cataract, the extensive and brilliant cascade, and fountains of all sorts, embellish the grounds in various parts, which, as may be expected, are in high order. The great conservatory is to all intents and purposes FULL of rare plants, some of which must be shortened a-head, or be through the roof. The place is like a jungle, and the health of all the plants, which seem growing wild and luxuriant, is excellent, though some appear a good deal drawn. If anything can enhance the value of this great treat to the public, it is the attention that is paid to every visiter, and which could not be increased, even to personal friends of the nobleman. We could have stayed a week among the wonders of Chatsworth, without tiring.

CULTURE OF THE LILY OF THE VALLEY, THE VERBENA, AND PHLOX DRUMMONDII.

LILY OF THE VALLEY.—The Lily of the Valley delights in a deep and rich soil. It will not thrive under trees, where all moisture and nutriment are

absorbed. It would be nearly as inconsistent to expect a Water Lily to grow on a rock. Such situations are, however, frequently assigned to it. The place most suitable for it should have the soil light, deep, and rich, and where moisture can be conveniently supplied in any weather. When the plants are growing, unless a vigorous foliage is obtained the flowers will be few and small. In preparing the ground for planting, a good coating of decomposed manure should be given, and if vegetable manure, such as decayed leaves, can be obtained, a large portion of this may be applied. Let the ground be turned up at least eighteen inches deep, and the soil and manure be well mixed. The best time to form new plantations of the Lily of the Valley is during the autumn, when the foliage has become yellow. When planted at this season, in one year they will make strong flowering plants. If the plantation be made with a view of taking the plants up and placing them in pots for forcing, they should be set in patches, by placing three plants in a triangular form, so as to be able to take them up with as little disturbance as possible. Plant each patch about twelve inches apart each way. By constant attention to moving the soil amongst them and keeping them clear of weeds, you will have strong roots fit for forcing in one year. When taken up, the patches must be carefully removed, with the whole of the soil about the roots, and placed in pots, not tearing the roots asunder, as is frequently done, and which, in fact, is one of the many causes of failure in the early production of bloom. Plants treated as above described are almost certain to bloom freely. A temperature of sixty degrees will be found suitable for them. A mixture of light loamy soil and leaf mould will form suitable material for potting, placing the pots, when filled, in a cold pit or frame, and if a succession of blooms is required, a portion only should be put into the frame at a time. While in the frame, the surface of the

soil must be kept damp, and after the plants make their appearance frequent syringing will be found of great service. When the blooms are out, the temperature should be lowered, and by this means will the plants not only be kept in bloom, but also, if cut for bouquets, will be found much more lasting.

VERBENAS supply us with almost every shade and colour. This, with their neat habit and easy management, render them indispensable for the purpose of grouping. In fact, they would of themselves supply sufficient variety of colour to fill a bed or parterre. The method we pursue with these plants is as follows:—We commence putting in cuttings about the middle and latter end of August, in half-pint pots, which we consider the best for the purpose. They are half filled with drainage; over this we place a little moss, and then a few siftings, such as would not pass through an half-inch sieve, filling the pot nearly to the brim with some fine sandy compost, and covering the whole with a little silver sand. When the cuttings are put in, they should be watered with a fine rose watering pot, after they have been placed in the frame, and we prefer at this season, a close cold pit or frame, rather than bottom heat. They will require very little further attention than sprinkling and shading, which must be done whenever requisite, giving them as much light as they will bear without drooping, always allowing the sun to shine on them about an hour every afternoon. As soon as they are struck, they should be gradually exposed to light and air, and as soon as the plants will admit, the lights may be taken off altogether, and the ends of the young shoots nipped off, to keep them dwarf and bushy. In November they should be placed in a pit or frame, as close to the glass as convenient, that they may receive the benefit of both light and air, and should have no more water than is absolutely necessary, but they should not be allowed to suffer for the want of it. About the middle of February, they may receive more water, and be frequently

syringed over. As soon as they begin to grow, the tops may be taken off for cuttings, and put into pots, as before recommended. They must be placed in a brisk bottom heat, where they will root in about a fortnight, and potted off singly as soon as they are a little hardened, and encouraged in their growth as much as possible. If they are not stunted by bad management, they will soon surpass plants that were potted off and established in autumn. We consider it preferable to keep the plants in the pots they were struck in during the winter, for, after considerable practical experience, we find they keep much better than when potted off singly; they also require less room, which is a matter of considerable importance. If potted off about the middle of April, giving them a little bottom heat, they will grow very freely, and when hardened, they may be placed in any temporary frame where they can be sheltered from spring frosts and wind. By this process, twice the number may be wintered that is possible when the plants are potted singly in autumn. It would be almost impossible to say, at this time, which are the best varieties for bedding, as there are so many new varieties which we have not at present proved, but as we are growing many of the new sorts, we shall be able, in a future number, to give a descriptive list of the most hardy and free growing kinds in each class.

PHLOX DRUMMONDII.—As an annual, there are few plants which better deserve the care and attention of the floricultural amateur, and therefore any remarks on its culture, habit, and peculiarities, and it possesses not a few of the latter, cannot be otherwise than interesting. Having had an opportunity of seeing some good specimens of *Phlox Drummondii* this spring, we were induced to name it to some of our friends as being a very beautiful plant, when, to our surprise, they thought but little of it. A short time afterwards, we had an opportunity of witnessing what we considered fair and well grown specimens, which fully justified them in speaking of it as they did, for

the colour of the flowers was dingy instead of being bright, and the plants about three feet in height, with here and there a head of flowers. But specimens three feet high and two feet through, with sixty or seventy heads of flowers, properly trained, of the striped and dark varieties, are excelled by few plants in beauty. These *Phloxes* seed freely during summer, and the seed should be sown in the autumn. When up, pot them singly, in small pots, and keep them in a cold and airy part of the greenhouse till spring. As they grow, shift them into larger pots, until they arrive at half-peck pots, in which they will make fine specimens. A mixture of leaf mould and sandy loam will suit them, giving plenty of drainage, and being careful not to over-water them.

R. E.

ON SOME FEW PERENNIALS THAT WILL BLOOM THE FIRST YEAR.

THE most important perennials are those which, when approved, are propagated by name, and are used for bedding plants. Of these, the *VERBENA* is unquestionably high in estimation. Sow these in the open ground, and they will bloom by the autumn; but sow in heat, in February, and prick out round the edges of four-inch pots. When grown enough, pot singly in large sixty-size, or three-inch pots, and pinch out the ends. In the first week in June plant them out in beds, and they will bloom nearly, if not quite, as soon as those grown from cuttings. The colours will be mixed, it is true, and many will be no better than they ought to be, perhaps worse, but there is a chance of novelty, and that gives a charm which fully compensates for the loss of uniformity.

The *PETUNIA* is just as easily raised, and may be sown, potted, and planted out at the same time;

whereas the practice with some has been to sow them near the autumn, get them through the winter as they best can, and then plant them out, or bloom them in pots.

LUPINUS POLYPHILLUS, raised early in heat, and planted out, will give flowers before the autumn. Intermediate stock, raised early in heat, and planted out, will bloom the same year. In fact, it is doubtful whether almost any of the perennials will not bloom, if commenced early.

The ANTIRRHINUM, sown in the open ground, blooms in August, and whatever among them happens to be worth propagating, may be made to produce a good stock of young plants by the spring.

The MIMULUS may be treated as a common annual, and will flower in the autumn.

The DAHLIA has long been raised in that way, for all we have to do is to sow them when we put the bulk of the collection to work, and to treat them exactly the same as we do the cuttings, that is, pot then off in sixty-sized pots (three-inch), and plant them out when we plant the general collection. It should be recollected that this is great encouragement to young beginners, who are very naturally anxious to raise new things, and who can, in a single season, try their fortunes. If they can get a pinch of good seed of any of these things, they may produce something superior at starting.

The PANSY will bloom in ten weeks from the sowing, if sown when the ordinary annuals, such as Asters, Stocks, Marigolds, and others, are sown; only hardy subjects should be removed to the greenhouse or cold frame when well up, to prevent their growing too fast and drawing.

We have, at the present moment, from seed sown in April, in the open ground, Antirrhinum, Veronica, Dahlia, Petunia, Verbena, Lupin (perennial), Mule Pink, Mimulus, and Pansy in full bloom, and we regret that we did not try several other perennials in

the same way; and all these might have been a month or six weeks earlier, had we sown them as we did the Asters and Stocks, on a little heat, and planted them out as soon as the weather permitted.

DIANTHUS.

MIDLAND AMATEUR FLORAL SOCIETY.

THIS flourishing society, founded, we believe, on some remarks which appeared in this work, has now taken so prominent a position in the floricultural world, that I hope it will not be inexpedient to give a few remarks on its various points. The society is established for the protection of amateurs from the various frauds practised on them by avaricious dealers, who, when they have a novelty really worth having, are not content with letting it out by itself, but must add to it five others good for nothing, and sell the whole batch as novelties worthy of an amateur's cultivation. We all can raise novelties, but many of them are worthless, and unless we can produce something better than we already possess, we have no right to let it out at an extravagant price. This has been greatly practised by nurserymen, of late years, and so disgusted have been the various patrons of floriculture, that they have come to the resolution to buy nothing new. To counteract this, and to protect themselves, the amateurs of the midland counties have formed themselves into an association for their mutual protection, and have come to the resolution to buy nothing new unless it has been approved by the society. We have heard several dealers say, "But if we will not send you our flowers to be inspected, what then?" Why then, Mr. Dealer, we shall not any of us buy your flowers, and if we do not, see if you will not be the loser, because we mean to buy nothing we do not see. So that it is to the dealers of great importance that they let us see their new

flowers. The society will also be the means of bringing forward any novelty we may possess in the midlands, and perhaps the society may itself take any good flower into its hand, and bring it forward; but we will not surmise. The rules of the society are very good. They are short, but they are easily understood. The society has already had five meetings, and such is the increased business, that instead of meeting once a month, they are compelled to meet once a week, in order to meet it. The Midland Amateur Floral Society ought to extend its labours in forming branch societies in Leicester, Derby, Newark, Mansfield, and indeed all over England, and if the floral societies and florists in various towns will only help the good work forward, they will find hundreds ready to join them. The Midland Amateur Floral Society at first found many difficulties, but these surmounted the course is easy and clear, and as one society is already formed, it will be an easy task to form others, as rules, &c., are already made. We shall from time to time notice the proceedings of the society, and keep a regular list of the transactions and certificates granted.

The certificates already granted are,—

CARNATION.—August 5.—A first-class certificate granted to *Sportsman*, a scarlet flake Carnation, a sport from Admiral Curzon, grown by Mr. J. S. Hedderly, of Snenton.

HOLLYHOCK.—August 13.—A first-class certificate granted to a seedling white Hollyhock, named *Purity*, grown by Mr. Richard Edwards, of Nuttall.

A. G. S.

THE CULTIVATION OF BULBS.

At this period all the seed shop windows are full of Hyacinths, Crocuses, Narcissuses, Jonquils, and other bulbs, which have been imported from Holland in great numbers, and in fine condition, Thousands, nay, perhaps millions, are purchased every year, and

yet they are hardly seen in gardens. Not one gardener in a hundred either appreciates them as they deserve or dreams about dressing up their borders or flower gardens with them. They are grown in pots or glasses, forced, more or less, in both cases, and after they have done their work and given their bloom, they are thrown aside; but they should be nursed and treated with the greatest care, though not wanting much tenderness. Hence people not only require a fresh supply every year, but their borders know no more of Hyacinths than if there were none. Narcissuses and Crocuses are not easily killed, but they may be starved. What is the routine of a Hyacinth's life in Holland? Here is a small offset, such as we despise in England; it is planted, and comes out larger; it is planted again, and becomes a small blooming root; once more it is planted, and the few pips that show themselves are picked off, all but the top one, and it comes up fit for the London market. It is as fine for blooming as it will be, and that is the time to export it. If kept another year, the fine bloom would come in Holland instead of England, and thenceforth it would split into offsets, and all these would have to be grown up into fine roots again. Many are sent over a year before their best year, and this may be known by the growth. If they do not split into offsets, the second year's bloom in England will be as good as the first, or better, supposing proper care is taken; and we know from experience that the splits can be grown up to perfection in England, because, having seen it done, and done it, we are in no doubt about the matter. In one of our early Almanacks, of which there have been nineteen annual volumes published, there were full instructions upon the subject. In another there was a translation of the method pursued in Holland, and we, having tried the Dutch method, have found it inferior to our own. Those who like to undertake raising Hyacinths from seed, must begin by saving their own, and they cannot do better than growing a selection for that pur-

pose, after the manner we shall prescribe for growing a bed.

HYACINTHS IN THE OPEN GROUND.—If your soil is already a good loam, we know it must be charged with vegetable matter already, and as many do not like the trouble of making a bed two feet deep, let them trench what they have, and, having levelled it, get well-washed sea or river sand, perfectly pure (no matter about being a little coarse), and cow dung, in equal quantities, well mixed. Cover the ground all over three inches thick, and with a fork mix it well with the soil, as deep as the fork will go, say eight or nine inches. This may be forked over three or four times before it is thoroughly mixed. Mark out four feet beds, throw off four inches of the soil, level the bottom, and place all the bulbs in any arrangement you please, six inches apart every way. When they are all placed, throw on the soil again, and the tops of the bulbs will be three inches below the surface, which is the proper depth. If you have any number of beds, the best way to get over the work is to measure one foot for a path between the first and second beds, and the soil you throw out of the second bed will cover up the first, the soil of the third will fill the second, and so on to the last, which must be filled up by wheeling the soil that came out of the first to cover and complete the work. If you have only one bed, it is worth while to throw out the ordinary soil to the depth of eighteen inches, put a layer of rotten cow dung at the bottom, and fill up with the following:—Soil from rotted turves two parts, sand one part, and cow dung one part, all mixed thoroughly by repeatedly turning, during which process all the living pests must be picked out, wire-worms, centipedes, grubs, and earwigs. Fill the bed all but four inches, which shall be thrown on after you have placed all the bulbs. We have repeatedly given our notions as to arrangement of colours, and we have repeated it in our “Companion to the Garden Almanack.” Hyacinths will, in this compost, excel

everything that can be imagined by those who have not seen them. They may have all the weather until the flowers begin to open, when shading will unquestionably prolong the bloom. Protecting them from heavy rains will keep them clean, and shading will make them last many days longer. When the flowers have declined, if you do not want seed, pick off the bloom, and let the plants have all the wind, rain, and sun. When the leaves have turned yellow, dig up the bulbs, and let them dry in the shade, after which screw or twist out the leaves clear off the roots, and lay them by where they will not be subject to heat, frost, or damp.

HYACINTHS IN GLASSES.—For glasses be particular in using the sorts best calculated for the purpose, which are very distinctly pointed out by Carter and Co.'s (of Holborn) catalogue of bulbs, and we should recommend everybody to procure one, for they are presented gratuitously if a request, enclosing one or two stamps for the postage, is forwarded. It will be found of great use in arranging for colours. Fill up the glasses with soft water, so that the bulbs touch it, place the Hyacinths in them, and then put them away in a cupboard, or anywhere in the dark, till they have made roots half-way down the water, when you may bring them into the light. They are extremely ornamental in the windows, and stand well on the ledge between the bottom and top sash, but it matters not where they are, next to the light. If they are kept in the interior of the room, away from the window, they draw up weakly. Many people have stands next the window for flowers, and grow a considerable number of them, varied in colour and character, when they group elegantly, and look very effective. When they have done blooming, and begin to decline, prepare a bed of the rich soil already mentioned, make a trench with a sloping bank, take them carefully out of the water, lay them on the slope with the roots spread a little, and cover them by making the next trench (like laying things in by

the heels), and so continue till all are laid in. Let them all be watered, to settle the soil about the roots, and let them take their chance until the leaves turn yellow, when they may be taken up, dried in the shade, and cleared of their leaves and roots for storing, in the same way as those grown in the open air.

HYACINTHS IN POTS.—The soil for potting should be similar to that in beds, and if it be intended to grow them fine, use upright six-inch pots, putting only one in a pot, and cover the bulbs with the soil. It is the custom to bury them in ashes, tan, old saw-dust, or light soil; all of which we disapprove of, as troublesome, because it can be done very well without. Put all the pots in the dark, a cellar, or a cold brick frame with solid wood top instead of glass, or under the stage of a greenhouse—anywhere that is cold and dark. The object of this is to avoid excitement, to let them make their roots and keep back the growth until there is something to support it. From this place you bring out a few at a time, to grow in the window or room, or to force, and as the first have advanced bring out others to succeed them. Those kept in the cold and dark will hardly have started when the first ones are in bloom. When, however, they begin to grow, which they will in time, even in the dark, they must be brought into the light before they draw up at all, for if they are left too long there will be a long yellow shoot upwards, and that would defeat all attempts to grow the foliage handsome. These should have air on fine days, abundance of water, and warm showers of rain will do them good; but as frost will get through the sides of a pot to the tender points of the root, they ought not to be exposed to that on any account. As their bloom declines in the pots, let the balls of earth be turned out into trenches made to receive them, with their top surface of mould two inches below the level of the ground, and so bury, or rather earth up, two inches of their stem. Here they may be left to themselves, after

watering, until the foliage decays, when they may be taken up and stored.

CARE OF THE BULBS, AND SELECTION.—Where the bulb has come up round, smooth, sound, and clean, with a firm bottom, you may calculate on its blooming again the next season, with a good spike. If, however, it has two centres, you may calculate on two spikes, but not so good. The rough ones, inclined to split, and showing offsets, must be used where uniformity is of no consequence, because there will be more trussess, and weaker ones. The offset bed is the proper place for them, as well as for all offsets that come off, and as this bed is the proper nursery for them up to blooming size, let the soil be as rich as that in the best bed. The bulbs cannot be kept too cool or too dry during the summer months. If they get damp many will perish. They ought to lie single, and in their proper separate sorts, and they should frequently be examined to see that they are safe and sound. Hyacinths are liable to disease, like many other vegetable productions, and as the large growers in Holland, as well as their imitators in England, are occasionally visited, they have found no remedy yet. The treatment we have recommended has hitherto been successful as a preventive, and we believe can hardly be improved upon, because the result has been all we could wish or anticipate. Every year, after two seasons, the offset bed will have some full grown.

HYACINTHS FROM SEED.—The seed should be sown in drills, six inches apart, and be very carefully kept within the drill, and covered half an inch. The soil must be the same in the compost as the best bed. Sow in March, keep them well weeded, and water all the hot dry weather. In fact, they must not be dry on any account. When the foliage is turning yellow take them up, let them dry in the shade, and clear them of all the dry grass and roots. Stir up the earth of the bed, and draw fresh drills, in which put the small bulbs in October, three inches apart, and an

inch deep. Repeat the process every year for three or four years, by which time the bulbs will have attained a respectable size, and the fifth year they may be planted six inches apart, when some will bloom, but not very strongly. If any indicate novelty of colour, or character, they should be marked and separated from the rest, and described in the table; but all must be bloomed up to the strongest point before they can be rejected, and even the worst are pretty border flowers. Some take the pains to pick off the pips of early-blooming seedlings, all but the top one, to strengthen the bulb for another year's bloom; but it is questionable whether the benefit is equal to the trouble. We once saw a bed of seedlings at Sunbury, the year they came into flower, but although there were some fine colours, the flowers were poor. How far justice had been done in the culture we know not, but they would be better the next year, for very few had good trusses, and they appeared drawn up a good deal.

OTHER BULBS.—We have been rather particular with regard to Hyacinths, simply because all the other favourite bulbs flourish under the same treatment. Early Tulips, in particular, in pots in the open ground, want nothing more nor less than we have recommended for Hyacinths. Narcissuses are larger roots, and may be planted an inch deeper. Crocuses want three inches above their crowns. Jonquils are small roots, but in their nature assimilate to the Narcissus, of which, by the way, there are a many varieties.

BORDERS OF BULBS.—The brightest flowers of summer, and in their most prolific season of bloom, fall short of a border of well arranged bulbs, and we are astonished that so few persons have the taste or the courage to attempt it. Let a border be three to four feet wide. Let the front be Crocuses, in patches of half-a-dozen, each patch in its own colour, not mixed, and planted within six inches of the edge, at three feet distances, blue, yellow, white, and orange. Six

inches backwarder, but half-way between the Crocuses, let there be dwarf early Tulips, seven in a patch (one centre and six round it), and every patch contain but one sort. If you have a dozen sorts, they will be renewed every twelve yards, to the end, but of the dwarf kinds there need not be so many; better have half-a-dozen good. Behind the Crocuses plant three Hyacinths in a patch, taking care that you have red behind the yellow, blue behind white, and white behind blue. Behind these again have tall early Tulips, in patches of seven, of which the white Potterbacker is a fair type, and there are others to match. Behind the dwarf early Tulips have Narcissus, white, yellow, and party-coloured, of which there are several varieties. Further back, and arranged carefully, have patches of Gladiolus, of which Floribunda is a good sample, but vary them as much as you can with good ones. The orange and white Lilies, Crown Imperials, *Lilium lancifolium*, and *Japonicum* to finish with. This is but an outline of what may be filled up, according to the taste and discretion of the cultivator, but for months nothing can excel the beauty of a border thus formed. Those who desire to follow it up in good earnest, may add patches of late Tulips, which will come in as the early ones go off; but we regret every time the season of bloom comes round, to see so few gardens even decently supplied with flowers, when they might be a blaze of bloom; and to hear men, who ought to know better, when they see a good garden properly furnished in spring, expressing their regret that they had not a few of this, that, and the other. In small flower gardens, in the front of villas, this neglect is inexcusable, for the effect of bulbs in spring is splendid in villa gardens, and generally they are of a manageable size. Some people are fond of change, and never get it; whereas with bulbs, which grow so well in pots, nothing would be easier. The Crocuses, as they decline, might be removed in their pots, and Hyacinths fill their places. Early Tulips, as they drop off, might be replaced with Narcissus

and late Tulips; and as Hyacinths are of several seasons, some nearly six weeks later than others, early ones may give place to later, so that a continuous bloom and a continual change may be made. Some bulbs might eventually give way to Stocks and dwarf Roses; others to Verbenas and Geraniums, and so on through all the season. When, however, the Tulips, Hyacinths, and Crocuses have been removed, they should be immediately turned out to complete the growth of their bulbs, which they will do much better unconfined.

RAISING OF CROCUSES, NARCISSUS, TULIPS and other bulbs from seed is much the same as Hyacinths. They must be replanted and taken up several years before they show a bloom, and when they do they must be treated the same as named flowers.

The time has now arrived at which bulbs should be purchased, and recourse should be had to respectable houses. Those bulbs which are damaged, though ordinary purchasers could not observe it, are consigned to auction rooms, to fetch what they may, and whoever buys runs great risk of losing his season, his bloom, and his money, and it has been thought that the owners, instead of parting with them, would profit by destroying them. Many, whose first adventure with bulbs was at an auction, have been disgusted with their want of success, and abandoned the fancy; whereas, had they been wise, and gone to a respectable shop, they would have been encouraged. Let us advise all who are not experienced to go to a respectable seedsman or nurseryman. Tell him what is wanted, whether for the open air, or pots, or glasses, and where they are to be grown, and he will not disappoint you; and, above all, be early, for it is a very proper maxim—first come, first served. Buy these, and treat them as we have recommended, and you will be in no danger of failure, grow them where you may.

G. G.

THE TULIP DISEASE.

SOME persons say that too much care in covering is the cause,—others that it is a similar disease to that of the Potato,—my opinion is that neglect or mismanagement is the chief cause. By some growers the bulbs are not attended to and properly cared for while out of ground; but, worse than that, the beds are neglected. After the bulbs are lifted, no more notice is taken of the beds till within a day or two of the time of planting. The old stuff is then just dug or forked over, and the bulbs popped in, perhaps with their clothes on, there to remain, at the mercy of the weather, wet or dry, until the time when they want to see their noses peeping out of the ground. This is one way of management, which I know is practised by many parties calling themselves growers or fanciers, though I must say the majority of Tulip growers know better than this; but how anything but sickness and disease can be expected from such management I cannot imagine. On the other hand, there are growers who make too much labour by throwing out the mould from their bed and the like, or perhaps spoil their bloom and roots by overclose covering, which I know has been the case with some parties who were over-anxious to get a fine lot of flowers for some particular exhibition. Some persons say they grow their flowers well year after year on the same beds and in the same soil, without taking any of it away or adding any to, except perhaps emptying a few Carnation pots on the bed. On some sorts of soil, and in some situations, the roots may grow or exist, but they will be something like a man living on the coarsest of bread and water. They will not look so vigorous and healthy as the man who gets his fill of beef and a little beer. My opinion is, that, if it can be got, there is nothing like changing the soil every year, taking care at the same time that the fresh soil be of right quality, well worked, well aired, and well sweetened, some time before the bulbs are

submitted to it. Perhaps some Tulip growers may not properly understand the nature and quality of soils suitable for Tulip bulbs, especially the young and inexperienced. In such cases, I would advise them to make inquiry of their neighbours and friends who may have had some years' practice, or otherwise to just try a small bed of common sorts of flowers, which they do not care so much about, in such new soils as they may think would answer, which would be far better than risking a whole collection of choice things in soils which they know nothing about. I might have a little more to say, at another time, on the nature, properties, and qualities of soils suitable for the Tulip. I have had a few years' practice in matters of this kind, and have tried many experiments, some of which have answered pretty well, while others have not, and my aim is to give the best advice I possibly can on this very important subject. But in doing so I do not pretend to say, with all my experience, that I know more than other experienced men; still I do say that if my advice is followed fairly up, it will not lead any one astray; on the contrary, in two or three years' time it will be found beneficial to many who have beforetime experienced heavy losses by disease or canker in their Tulips. All I have to say further at present is, that wherever circumstances will allow, change the situation of your beds, and part, or, if possible, the whole of the soil every year; but where this is not practicable let one thing be strictly observed, and that is, at the time you take up the bulbs, have by you a basket or barrow, and as you lift up the bulbs with the ball of earth and the fibrous roots about them, instead of breaking and shaking it on the bed, hold it over your basket or barrow, and clear it away; don't leave the least particle of the substance on the bed. Some men imagine that these fibrous roots and old refuse will help to grow the roots when planted again, but practice has taught me that, instead of its being of use to the coming growth, it is a deadly poison to the bulbs;

therefore I say clear every particle of it away from the beds wherein the roots have to be grown again. After the bulbs are taken up, and all this dead rubbish cleared away, if the soil on the bed seems to be exhausted, take it out to the full depth of where the bulbs will have to lie when planted again, and place it where it can be turned over a few times while lying idle, then get a few barrowsful of some sort of fresh stuff—if it be from an old hedge bottom, ever so poor, keen, and harsh, it will wonderfully improve your bed,—and spread it nice and even all over, after which get a pail of fine quick lime, throw it evenly over all, and with a good long-pronged fork turn the whole over to the depth of at least two feet. In a week's time give it another good forking over, and break and mix it well together. And now I have another little method to propose to those who are hardy enough to try it. Some, I know, would be frightened to death at such an idea; however, I give it, at the same time knowing it will answer, and answer well too. After the bed has been twice well forked over, get a good barrowful or two of cow dung from the field. The quantity depends upon the length of your bed or beds, say to a bed of thirty feet at least one good barrowful. Have a large butt that will hold a good quantity of water, put in the cow dung, and give it a good stir up. You can either let it stand awhile to settle or lay it on in a thickish state, it matters little which, only, should you be timid and fearful of your bulbs catching some particle of the dung when planted, you had better lay it on in a thin state. You will have to pour on fresh water two or three times before the strength is exhausted. As soon as the bed or mould gets a little dry, give it another good forking over. If this is done directly after taking up the bulbs, I would recommend a forking over at least once a fortnight, but if it has yet to be done, the season is so far advanced that no time should be lost, and as soon as the manure water is laid on and a little dried, give the bed a forking over once a week

from this up to planting time. If this last plan is strictly tried, and the bulbs are in a healthy state when planted, I guarantee that they will show themselves in the spring free from canker, grow on vigorously, produce a fine bloom, and, after that, fine, clean, healthy, strong bulbs, unless there is some mismanagement after planting. On this head I shall most likely have a little to say at another time. Frost can't kill Tulips. I know it; but I also know it can greatly injure them if they get too much of it. But this must be an after subject; my present article is one which is first needed. The treatment of the Tulip after planting must come in due course. I have not yet said all I intended on the management of the beds, &c.; but will try to finish it in the next number, if permitted.

J. HEPWORTH.

*(Hendries) Gardens, Lea Bridge-road,
Leyton, Essex.*

A FEW HINTS ON THE CALCEOLARIA.

HAVING been a successful grower of this graceful plant, I thought it might not be uninteresting but useful to give a detail of some of the principal features of my mode of cultivation of the Calceolaria. From seed it requires a little more care in the early stages of its culture to ensure success. In the raising of the seedling it is requisite to attend to the following directions:—The seed should be sown in pots prepared thus. The pots must be half-filled with drainage; over this may be laid siftings of earth, and the surface covered with soil as fine as possible, to which should be added a portion of silver or very fine river sand. When thus prepared, it should be watered with a fine-rosed watering pot. Immediately after this sow the seed carefully, and it will require no covering. Place the pot in a shady part of the greenhouse or frame, with a piece of paper supported

by sticks to keep the soil damp. In the month of September the young plants soon come up, when they should be pricked out in pans or pots, to be repotted and encouraged as they develop themselves, and from thence to sixty or forty-eight-sized pots. About the end of February, I select the finest plants for a final shift, leaving the weaker ones a little longer. The soil I grow them in consists of turfy loam and rotted manure, with a proportion of one-sixth of sand, well mixed, but not sifted, for I find that they like to grow in the rough lumpy mould much better than when it is finely divided. I grow them in eleven-inch pots. After potting, I place them in a frame, never allowing them to have the sun from the last time of shifting, but giving them plenty of air. Water freely until they begin to grow, and then sprinkle them every morning with the syringe. Once a week, whilst growing freely I water with manure water, which is a material help. The complaint they are subject to is the green-fly (*Aphis vindis*), only to be counteracted by the application of tobacco smoke. *Calceolarias* are easily managed with a little care.



JOHN THOMPSON, *Jersey.*

PROPHECY FULFILLED.—We think it but right, in justice to ourselves, to notice a fact in connection with the new Picotee, Mrs. Eyre. If our readers will turn to page 122 of the present volume, they will see it is there stated that a seedling Picotee, raised by Mr. Lineker, would prove second to none. This Picotee has been purchased by Mr. Eyre, and appropriately named Mrs. Eyre. It has already taken the premier prize at the Handsworth Union, and at Derby twelve blooms were shown, which were deservedly admired by all; indeed such has been the character of the flower, that we have still to record the same opinion of its merits, only altering the sense, that it is second to none. We understand Mr. Eyre will let the flower out himself, and not place it in the hands of any one.

NOTICES OF FLOWERS.—WM. PARKER, *Clay Cross*.—Your seedling Picotee, if well grown, we think might be made a decent flower; but when received it was hardly in a fit state to judge.—W. HARRIS.—Your Picotee is much too light and flimsy. The Carnation is no improvement on what we have.—R. W.—Your Pansy, Mrs. Hadley, is not good. The bottom petal is much too small, while the top petals are all much too large.—We received some *Antirrhinums* and *Petunias*, but they were so bruised and crushed that we could not form any opinion of them.

CALENDAR OF OPERATIONS, FOR SEPTEMBER.

AURICULAS grown in pots must be looked over, and relieved of their decayed stalks and yellow leaves, and at the end of the month be placed in the regular winter pit or frame, have but little wet, and all the air they can. Plants in the borders, that are to be saved in pots, should now be removed, and for want of better accommodation, dig a pit deep enough to hold them, and cover it over with boards, or build a pit with turves, and cover in bad weather; remove all you can to the dwelling-houses. When the layers of Carnations and Picotees are struck, they should be cut off, and potted in forty-eight-sized pots, one pair in each, in fresh sandy loam, but no dung. This month may be said to be the beginning of bulb planting for early bloom; and all the soft kinds, such as Lilies, Crown Imperials, &c., must be but a short time out of the ground. Offsets should now be taken from *Calceolarias*, and potted; cuttings which have been struck should also be potted into single pots. China, and tea-scented, and most of the smooth-barked kinds of Rose, may be cut in, and the cuttings will strike by only keeping them in the greenhouse, or under a hand-glass, in a pit free from frost, during the winter. Dahlias as before, only towards the end of the month earth them well up, to keep the frost from the roots; gather the seed as it ripens. Tender greenhouse plants must in many situations be housed before the month is out. Pansies may be struck from cuttings in time to get strong before the winter sets in; young plants should be potted for early bloom. Seedling flowers, such as *Polyanthuses*, *Canterbury Bells*, *Sweetwilliams*, and all the biennials and perennials, may be planted out if hardy, and potted if tender. Snowdrops and Daffodils, and many other early bulbs, may be planted in the borders, and where it is necessary to remove the beds or patches, now is the time, or it may be deferred till next month. Perennials out of bloom may be parted to increase them.

Potatoes that are ripe may be taken up and stored; they are always ripe when the haulm is decayed. Onions must be drawn

as they ripen, and dried on the ground, in the sun, for a day or two; they should be stored very dry and cool. Earth up Celery as usual, choosing dry days for this work, and bruising the lumps of soil small. Prick out the August-sown Cauliflowers; the warmest and best place in the garden should be chosen, if they are only to be protected in the ground, but if you have a common garden frame and light to spare, dig up a space the size it will cover, and plant them three or four inches apart all over it. Plant out Cabbage plants in any spare ground, six inches apart, and in rows fifteen inches apart, to be drawn as coleworts. Hoe winter Spinach, removing them where too thick, and leaving them six or eight inches apart. Seeds should be gathered as they ripen; they will otherwise be in danger from birds, or the pods splitting and dropping them about. Let them be well dried. Plant out Cabbages in all empty spaces not likely to be wanted for other crops. Carrots, Beet root, and Parsnips may be taken up as required, until the leaves begin to decay, when they may all be taken up and stored.

FLORAL EXHIBITIONS.

THE GREAT NORTH CHESHIRE TULIP EXHIBITION,

At Mr. Goddard's, Sportsman's Inn, Hyde, May 30.

Judges.—Messrs. J. Oldham, G. Holland, and U. Chadwick.

Stands of Six.—1. (Silver cup, value £5) Charles X., Sanzio, Edgar, Beauty, Comte, and Aglaia, J. Naylor. 2. Charles X., Charles X., Edgar, Juliana, Heroine, and Triomphe Royale, J. Peacock, Esq.

Stand of Breeders.—1. John O'Gaunt, seedling, and Juliet, Z. Peacock, Esq.

2. Paxton, Sir H. Pottinger, and Clara, J. Peacock, Esq.

Maiden Prize.—Charles X., J. Chadwick.

Feathered Bizarres.

- 1 Charles X., S. Ardern
- 2 Paul Pry, J. Turner, Esq.
- 3 Duke of Devonshire, ditto
- 4 Apelles, J. Peacock, Esq.
- 5 Sidney, J. Buckley
- 6 Climax, J. Peacock, Esq.
- 7 Waterloo, J. Buckley
- 8 Lord Melbourne, J. Naylor

Flamed Bizarres.

- 1 Sanzio, W. Peacock, Esq.
- 2 Paul Pry, Z. Peacock, Esq.
- 3 Willison's King, J. Peacock, Esq.
- 4 Duke of Devonshire, J. Sidley
- 5 Polyphemus, S. Ardern
- 6 Pilot, J. Turner, Esq.
- 7 Charles X., E. Shuttleworth
- 8 Unknown, J. Turner, Esq.

Feathered Byblæmens.

- 1 Edgar, S. Ardern
- 2 Bienfait, J. Buckley
- 3 Incomparable, Z. Peacock, Esq.
- 4 Sir H. Pottinger, W. Peacock, Esq.
- 5 Beauty, J. Turner, Esq.
- 6 Lancashire Hero, J. Buckley
- 7 Seedling, ditto
- 8 Apollo, J. Naylor

Flamed Byblæmens.

- 1 Incomparable, J. Buckley
- 2 Bienfait S. Ardern
- 3 Bacchus, J. Turner, Esq.
- 4 Privateer, Z. Peacock, Esq.
- 5 Glory, ditto
- 6 Flora, J. Turner, Esq.
- 7 Duc de Bordeaux, J. Naylor
- 8 Queen of the North, J. Turner, Esq.

Feathered Roses.

- 1 Jupiter, J. Turner, Esq.
- 2 Heroine, J. Buckley
- 3 Andromeda, ditto
- 4 Newcastle, Z. Peacock, Esq.
- 5 Aglaia, J. Turner, Esq.
- 6 Lady Crewe, J. Peacock, Esq.
- 7 Comte, Z. Peacock, Esq.
- 8 Dolittle, J. Buckley

Flamed Roses.

- 1 Unique, W. Peacock, Esq.
- 2 Lady Suffield, S. Ardern
- 3 Aglaia, J. Chadwick
- 4 Celestial, J. Peacock, Esq.
- 5 Triomphe Royale, S. Ardern
- 6 Andromeda, J. Peacock, Esq.
- 7 Lady Crewe, Z. Peacock, Esq.
- 8 Claudiana, J. Peacock, Esq.

Bizarre Breeders.

- 1 Paxton, Z. Peacock, Esq.
- 2 John O'Gaunt, ditto
- 3 Unknown, S. Ardern
- 4 Earl Radnor, Z. Peacock, Esq.
- 5 Rudolph, J. Peacock, Esq.
- 6 Cyclops, ditto

Byblæmen Breeders.

- 1 Sancta Sophia, S. Ardern
- 2 Seedling, Z. Peacock, Esq.
- 3 Godet Parfait, J. Sidley
- 4 Martha, J. Naylor

- 5 Bellona, ditto
- 6 Orleans, W. Peacock, Esq.

Rose Breeders.

- 1 Juliet, J. Turner, Esq.
- 2 Clara, J. Peacock, Esq.
- 3 Nina, ditto
- 4 Seedling, J. Naylor
- 5 Ditto, ditto
- 6 Catherine Gordon, W. Peacock, Esq.

Selfs.

- Min d'Or, J. Turner, Esq.
White Flag, J. Sidley

BRAMCOTE FLORAL AND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

At the Sherwin Arms Inn, Bramcote, June 2.

TULIPS.

Six Dissimilar Blooms.—1. Abbott's Seedling, Gibbons's Pilot, Lawrence's Friend, Denman, Heroine, and Aglaia, J. Brown. 2. Dundas, Pilot, Denman, Roscius, Comte de Vergennes, and Triomphe Royale, J. Atkin. 3. Sir Charles Napier, Polyphemus, Queen Charlotte, Lawrence's Friend, Bion, and Lady Jane Grey, T. Abbott. 4. Magnum Bonum, Captain White, Ambassador, Sir John Franklin, Triomphe Royale, and Aglaia, J. Walker. 5. Sovereign, Polyphemus, Lady Flora, Princess Royal, Seedling, and Bion, H. Waters. 6. Duke of Devonshire, Augustus, Maid of Orleans, Violet Alexander, Hero of the Nile, and Bion, A. Towle. 7. Captain White, Augustus, Elegans, Princess Royal, Triomphe Royale, Lord Hill, G. Smedley. 8. Victory, Augustus, Baguet, La Polka, Duchess of Sutherland, and Aglaia, J. Atkin. 9. Grand Duke, Pilot, Liliard, Violet Wallers, Lady Crewe, Triomphe Royale, J. Waters. 10. Pilot, Lord Milton, Princess Royal, Lawrence's Friend, Triomphe Royale, and Aglaia, J. Clifford.

Feathered Bizarres.

Premier.—Duke of Devonshire

- 1 Magnum Bonum
- 2 Duke of Devonshire
- 3 Victory
- 4 Seedling No. 1
- 5 Ditto, Omar Pasha
- 6 Sir Charles Napier
- 7 Lord Lillford
- 8 Earl Douglas
- 9 Grand Duke

Flamed Bizarres.

Premier.—Pilot

- 1 Duke of Devonshire
- 2 Polyphemus
- 3 Captain White
- 4 Pilot
- 5 Lord Milton
- 6 Augustus
- 7 Aid de Camp
- 8 Julia
- 9 Dauphin

Feathered Byblæmens.

Premier.—Baguet

- 1 Bromley's Hope
- 2 Baguet
- 3 Abbott's Gem
- 4 Lavan Amy
- 5 Maid of Orleans
- 6 Elegans
- 7 Lady Flora
- 8 Lawrence's Friend
- 9 Maid of Orleans

Flamed Byblæmens.

Premier.—Denman

- 1 Denman
- 2 Queen Charlotte
- 3 Lavan Amy

- 4 Connoisseur
- 5 Princess Royal
- 6 Violet Wallers
- 7 Unknown
- 8 Elegans
- 9 Princess Royal

Feathered Roses.

Premier.—Madame Vesta

- 1 Huntress
- 2 Duchess of Sutherland
- 3 Baguet
- 4 Comte de Vergennes
- 5 Heroine
- 6 Aglaia
- 7 Heroine
- 8 Middleton
- 9 Triomphe Royale

Flamed Roses.

Premier.—Aglaia

- 1 Camellia
- 2 Aglaia
- 3 Seedling
- 4 Triomphe Royale
- 5 Lady Jane Grey
- 6 Lady Leicester
- 7 Catherine
- 8 Lavinia
- 9 Anastasia

Seedlings.

- 1 Atkin's No. 1, feathered bizarre
- 2 Ditto No. 2, flamed bizarre

Breeders.

- 1 Gibbons's No. 1 Rose
- 2 Brown's Seedling
- 3 Towle's Queen Victoria
- 4 Brown's Seedling
- 5 Atkin's Seedling
- 6 Brown's Seedling

ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

JUDGING AT SHOWS.

Too many who are called in, carelessly enough, for judges, lose sight of what is before them, and give way to imagination. They look to *variety*, instead of *condition*. We would rather turn half-a-dozen good cooks in to judge vegetables, than people who know too much. Cooks would judge by sight or taste; they would not know the particular variety of a Cabbage, but they would soon find out which was the best. They might be ignorant of the name of a Pea, but they would know well how to choose. They perhaps never knew the names of half-a-dozen Lettuce, but they would know which would eat the best that day. Vegetables ought to be judged by their fitness for table, not by size, and yet we constantly see a Drum-head Cabbage, as hard and as red inside as a brick, put first, because it is largest—finest, as it is called. Cooks would never blunder like that. Again, judges of fruit look to fine growth and scarce sorts. A raw *Muscat* would be placed before a rich ripe *Sweet-water*, because one is first-rate when ripe, the other common. But it may be said they must be very ignorant judges to do so. Granted. At the Crystal Palace they ought to get decent judges, yet Foxy Hambro' Grapes were put before ripe black ones. Some said it was because the judge was a relation of the exhibiter, and that the Grapes were seen afterwards in his shop; but this may be all jealousy. The fact, however, was palpable, and we must leave others to account for it, if what we heard was wrong. At Newington, the other day, the stands of Dahlias were not in their proper places. A nurseryman exhibited, and ill-natured people say the

shower's foreman was judge, and it was natural he should take care of his master. It may be said he did not judge his employer's flowers, but those of somebody else in another class. However, the room in which the show was held was quite small enough to make all the judges one party, and a snug one too. We are, however, more for directing attention to general judgment, than to go to unjust judgment, of which, unfortunately, there is wilfully too much. In the judgment of plants, how often does the first-rate plants-man give undue weight to novelty? Let a collection of old-fashioned plants be shown, all in good condition, and well bloomed. Let another collection contain a few of the new and dear plants, and we know, from experience, the trouble we have had to convince the plants-man that the prizes are for *the skill of the gardener*, not for the *purse of the master*. If in all other respects two collections are equal, let novelty have its point, but do not make scrubs and mere nursery plants of novelties run before well-grown and well-bloomed specimens of older things. Such decisions are detrimental to science. They shut out gardeners from rewards of merit, and throw a neighbourhood behind the rest of the world. If horticultural exhibitions are to be anything beyond a display of subjects to justify a holiday, they ought to encourage skill in the cultivation of fruits, flowers, plants, and vegetables. And if, in addition to this, they are to encourage the purchase of new subjects, which are distinct objects, a class should be made for *the best new subjects*, irrespective of other prizes; but it is doing more harm than good if novelty, like "charity," is to "cover a multitude of sins," and the skilful gardener, who can only grow what is allowed him, is to be beaten by the less talented, but more fortunate man, whose master indulges in new plants. We require healthy foliage, judicious growth, plenty of flowers and in good condition, and with us a tennisea plant deficient of all this goes for nothing, if it be not an absolute drawback. An Orange tree in

good flower, the old-fashioned Myrtle well bloomed, the Nerium Oleander, and the Hydrangea, all among the neglected plants, stand higher than the most expensive specimens in worse order, and we wish we could impress upon nurserymen, if they are called in, the necessity of leaving novelty out of the question, unless all other points are equal. In cut flowers we are the same. If a stand had not a novelty in it, and the flowers were according to the properties, better as a whole, novelty would have no weight whatever. We should judge by the general merits. We take "The Properties of Flowers and Plants" as our guide, and test everything by that standard. In a general way fruit must be judged by flavour, and when that is equal, and not till then, we go by size. In the case of Grapes we only recognize colour and ripeness, great size next. The Hambro' must be black; the Muscat must be yellow; the Golden Hambro' belongs to the class of white Grapes, and must be transparent. Vegetables must be judged, we repeat, by their fitness for table. What is a seven or eight pound stick of Celery, if three-fourths are waste, and the rest stringy? What is a large Cabbage, if not eatable? What is Lettuce, unless the heart be solid and blanched? What is a woody Carrot? a stiff-necked Onion? a spongy Turnip? or a hollow Potato? If a collection be shown, all these faulty things—often put in for display—should be thrown aside before we attempt to judge the merits. A mere number of varieties goes for nothing. Count all the things that are in high condition, but leave out of the account everything below average, and the difficulty of judging is at once done away with. Never hesitate to cut open anything, for although the good appearance of some things may not deceive you, it is necessary that the public should see that the best in appearance is not the best for table. Schedules ought to define everything so that the exhibiter may know what he is about. It is not the heaviest stick of Rhubarb or Celery that is the best, but the shower

ought to know whether he is to be judged by quality or weight. But while we are writing of the duty of judges, we must offer a hint to those who arrange the tables. *First*, everything in a class should be placed together; *secondly*, the arrangement should follow the schedule, so that the judges, without running all over the tent to find every class, should find them follow without anything intervening; *thirdly*, in every instance the manner of showing should be defined: Roses, single blooms, or bunches not more than six inches over, or single blooms with the buds and leaves on one stem, not Oxford fashion, some one way and some another. Verbenas quite as particular. In dishes of fruit the number or weight should be specified; but when numbered, allowing for accident, twelve to fifteen, six to eight, or any other number, but not absolute, because we once saw an exhibiter take a Plum, Pear, Apple, and some others from dishes he wished disqualified, and we saw it in time to defeat his object. In baskets or boxes of cut flowers, let them be so many bunches, each a different genus, but as many species or varieties in each bunch as he pleases; different striking varieties to have separate classes, Asters for instance, one class quilled, another class flat petals. We feel more interested in this than many, for we have more shows to judge for than most people, and the difference of labour where these things are not attended to is greater than we can describe. As we are, in the metropolis, in a fair way to rid the public exhibitions of hack showers (who live by it) and prostituted judges, we are naturally anxious to see a proper system adopted. After the judgement is pronounced is the time to alter the arrangement for effect, but it is absurd to separate the things which are to compete with each other until after the prizes are awarded. One hour, with a good arrangement, is sufficient for a judge to get over an immense number of subjects; whereas without it, two or three hours' irksome confusion, and some injustice, are the inevitable consequences. A

committee or a director has only to deliver the plants properly placed into the hands of the judges, and they ought to see their work properly arranged, that they may, schedule in hand, walk round, and not have once to turn out of the way.

GEORGE GLENNY.

A WORD TO THE MIDLAND AMATEUR FLORAL SOCIETY.

AMONG the benefits which the Midland Amateur Floral Society could confer on the growers round the metropolis, may be mentioned that which, in a small degree, would help their less experienced friends in the metropolis, namely, give them a list of the best "florists' flowers." The two or three dealers who monopolize the trade in these favourites give *their lists of the best* through various means. A monthly work in one dealer's hands, and, if it should come out again, a yearly one in another's, gives the required information, *to serve their own stocks*. That which they have *most* of to sell is, of course, "THE BEST," according to these honest authorities. One of these worthies made sure of the stock of a new thing, and, according to the published description, nothing could equal it; but unfortunately somebody else *got it*, and it was discovered by the same honest writer to be worthless. This is the way people are served in London works, works that only pay the owner by forcing sales of plants, but which, if dependant on their own sale, would not last six months. Now what we would suggest is, that our men of Nottingham, whose united opinions would be something like an authority, should, every time they meet, discuss the merits of one or more flowers, say the Carnation and Picotee, and decide, by the majority of opinions, upon the best half-dozen or dozen of each class, and give us the benefit of their decision.

Another meeting may take up the *Polyanthus* and Pansy, or they might take the whole range of florists' flowers, and each come prepared with his list of the best. We are quite sure they would be disinterested, because they would have no object to serve by misrepresenting things; and according to the majority of opinions, so decide. If this be too much to attempt so early, we should be glad of each man's list of what he is best acquainted with, and we will find means to publish it as what it is, the opinion of a Nottingham grower. Judging from the stir it has made, the formation of the Midland Amateur Floral Society has given uneasiness among a certain class. It is no longer "swindling made easy," but, as "coming events cast their shadows before," they anticipate a total defeat in their hitherto successful mode of obtaining money for worthless subjects. When we say "hitherto successful" mode, we must in some measure qualify the expression, because the trade in worthless subjects has been reduced considerably of late. The clique called "The National Society" actually gave themselves one hundred and seventy-eight certificates in a season. When they were criticised, they reduced the awards to ninety odd the second, and fifty odd the third season, thus bringing the people who chose this way of getting money a little to their senses. Still there are people destitute enough of taste and common sense to read the publications established to deceive them, and the trade cannot be destroyed altogether until common sense can be hammered into their remaining dupes. The consolation is, however, that as fools are the common food of knaves, they deserve to be cheated, and they get what they deserve. "Nottingham is not the only place in the world where there are florists," observed one of the persons made uneasy; "they aint everybody," said he sneeringly. "Certainly not," was he answered, "but they are strong enough for a central point, and have set the example." The clique just now puts one in mind of a colony of greenfly when

the first fumes of tobacco reach them. "Each for himself" is the motto, and each, in proportion to his respectability, is more or less anxious to make the best excuse he can for belonging to such a set. The men of Nottingham have done much for floriculture, they have now undertaken an arduous task which they must go through, and the first and most important task is that of informing the cultivators of florists' flowers what they may buy without losing their money, their time, or their ground. We have done our best, successful so far as we went; but while we recommended a dozen flowers in a family that we knew were good, the men of Nottingham might have given the names of a dozen and a half. Nobody could go wrong with our advice, but as "in a multitude of counsel there is wisdom," they might have been allowed to go a little further on the right road. The effect of the Midland Amateur Floral Society will be to disseminate useful and profitable knowledge; first, among themselves; next, when properly concentrated, throughout all the floral community. Many are the communications we receive on the subject of "Mutual Protection Societies," all anxious to confine them to amateurs and gentlemen's gardeners, with one local nurseryman; all these letters from writers deeply injured and victimized by the dealers in worthless things, put forth with fictitious characters. In a moral point of view this is "obtaining money under false pretences;" in a legal point of view simply humbugging. But there must be an end to this moral fraud. The last thing on a Saturday we observe a man packing up a dozen Dahlias, with false characters, scarcely worth the basket they are in, though at the reduced price of three pounds per dozen. On the Sunday morning he is off to some place of worship, a right good sample of the Pharisee who said "Thank God I am not as other men; extortioners," &c. What security has an ordinary plodding honest man against refined hypocrisy like this? These are the people whom we war against, for they

are enemies of floriculture. These are the dangerous men whom the Midland Amateur Floral Society have to counteract, for their cloaks of morality and religion deceive hundreds. We prefer, of the two, the open cheat, who shows other people's flowers and glories in it, who considers floriculture the same as the boxing ring, the turf, and the betting room, and makes the most of it; who lives by, and lays himself out for, winning other people's money, and cares very little how, when, or where. It is the fault of those who, knowing his character, have any concern with him. But your pretended religious man, who will run a thing in a poor man's hand down, to get it cheap, and give it a good character to sell it dear, is dangerous. Everybody cannot know the difference between true and false religion, but when an apparently serious man is at enmity with a journalist who writes against cheating, it wants no conjuror to discover that he is a downright hypocrite, that his religion is a deception, his public worship a sham, and his good actions, if he ever perform any, simply a part of his acting, a sort of practical falsehood. The establishment of, the Midland Protection Society we might call it, upon a plan which excludes dealers, no doubt prevented an intended ruse. Some of the most rabid of the novelty mongers were going to send their subscriptions that they might appear among those who were anxious to correct an acknowledged evil. Fortunately, the exclusion of dealers in general prevented this Jesuitical bit of acting. Now that the principal of the things let out last autumn and spring are beginning to tell tales, the thousands who used to buy everything novel, and who now wait till the next season, have great cause to congratulate themselves upon their escape. All the efforts of the works under the National influence will not keep up enough of character to make them fetch a penny more than old varieties, and many will be ousted altogether as worse than we already possess. Though the *florists' flowers* grown round London would keep

a few florists in good feather, we have very very few worthy of the name, we are obliged to go to nurseries where the flowers are not grown. The proprietors of these send into the country—to Nottingham for a good many—and we get them with all the disadvantages of double packing and pulling about, some broken, some dried up, some heated, but all damaged. One depot near London, where for that month best calculated for removal and keeping, *and for that month only*, all florists' flowers could be had, would be of the greatest benefit to buyers, while the surplus stocks of all good growers might be sent, and at the end of the month the residue, if any, could be sold by auction. Amateurs might be of service to each other in this way, so long as intrigue, cunning, the schemes of the ring and the betting room are brought to bear against them, and not until the coalition of fraud and hypocrisy shall have been broken up, will there be hope for the amateur. In the mean time amateurs must protect themselves. Now the rules of the Midland Amateur Floral Society are published, we shall see divers branches start up in various places, a total change for the better in floriculture, a wholesome check on fraudulent showing, and some of the principal delinquents thrust forth from all good societies.

GEORGE GLENEY.

HARDY EVERGREEN TREES AND SHRUBS.

As the time for planting has now arrived, it may be as well to give a few notes of the plants I have lately had under my care, which will I trust be interesting and useful to the readers of the *Midland Florist*

The genus *Juniperus* (or Juniper) itself contains quite a host of fine things. *J. Chinensis* is of upright habit and quick growth, the foliage a deep bright green. In the spring it is covered with beautiful

buds, which give it a very interesting and distinct appearance. *J. Chinensis femina* is also a very handsome variety. The foliage is a light green, and the growth slightly drooping. *J. Cracova* is an upright growing variety, much similar to the common Juniper of most gardens, but far superior. *J. excelsor* is a very beautiful variety, having much the appearance of a close-growing *Arbor-vitæ*. The foliage is of a beautiful deep green, which it maintains during the whole of the winter. This plant is fit for the smallest collection, on the best kept lawns. *J. ocycedrus* is a very handsome light-growing variety. In the autumn it is covered with berries, which add to its appearance. *J. pendula* is a remarkably thick-growing bush, of a deep green. The shoots are very pendulous. *J. pendula vera* is a very light green. The shoots are more pendulous than *J. pendula*. Some persons have expressed their doubts as to the hardiness of this, but I have found it perfectly hardy. It is one of the best. *J. recurva* is a very distinct variety, the shoots are pendulous, and the plant forms a very handsome bush. *J. religiosa* is a curious little plant, with me, not growing more than six inches high. It is more curious than handsome. *J. Smithii* is of rather slow and straggling growth, and not very handsome. *J. oblonga* I believe to be the same as *J. Smithii*. *J. savin* is a well-known evergreen bush. *J. savin variegata* is a variegated variety of the last-named. *J. savin nana* is dark bright green, much handsomer than *J. savin*, and a very pretty sort. *J. squamata* has somewhat of a trailing habit. It is rather coarse in appearance, but yet a pretty variety. *J. tamariscifolia* is a beautiful dark bright green. It does not grow more than six inches high, completely covering the ground with its beautiful foliage. I think this might be advantageously used as an edging for beds of choice shrubs, either next the grass or a gravel walk. *J. Siberica* is another very dwarf-growing sort. It is of trailing habit, never reaching more than a few inches in height. The upper part of the

foliage is dark green, while the under part is a beautiful silvery white. It is very hardy. *J. Bedfordiana* is a very pretty light-growing variety, but owing to its being very tender, it will only succeed in sheltered situations.

The genus *Cupressus*, or Cypress, contains some splendid things, many fine plants of which exist in our best-kept gardens. *C. torulosa* is a very handsome tall-growing tree. *C. Virginiana*, the common red Cedar of gardens, is too well known to need description. *C. Lambertiana* is a very fast-growing tree. The foliage is a fine lively green, which it retains during the severest winters. It is extremely hardy. Wherever room can be made for it, it ought to be planted. *C. thurifera* is a fine variety, but owing to its tenderness, will not succeed. *C. thyoides* has much the appearance of an *Arbor-vitæ*; nevertheless it is a very pretty variety. *C. funebris* is a very light-growing variety, fit for a place in the choicest collection. It proves with me to be quite hardy, and has been much admired.

We now come to that noble genus of plants, the *Pinuses* and its family, than which there is not, in my humble opinion, a more beautiful class of trees in existence, witness a specimen of the common Spruce Fir, perhaps eighty or a hundred feet high, clothed with branches from its very roots to the top, and say is not that beautiful; and again, the common Scotch Fir, with its noble limbs, or look at some of the more choice varieties, and say are they not beautiful. But to begin. *Pinus cembra*, an upright close-growing variety, is rather dull in colour, and not quite so handsome as some of the other varieties. *P. excelsa* is a very fast-growing tree. The foliage is a very light silvery green. Wherever this variety is grown it must be allowed plenty of room, or it will soon be in the way. *P. insignis* is one of the very handsomest of *Pinuses*. The foliage is of a very bright beautiful green, which is retained through the severest winters. It should be included in the most

select collections. *P. pinaster* is a coarse-growing variety, and succeeds well by the sea-side. *P. patula* is a very handsome sort. The tufts of foliage have very much the appearance of a bottle-brush, if I may be allowed a rather ungardener-like comparison. It is one of the handsomest of *Pinuses*, but unfortunately it is very tender, and consequently must have a sheltered situation. *P. Banksiana* is a very singular-looking tree, more singular than handsome. *P. Laricio* is a very handsome plant, fit for the choicest collection. It has much the appearance of *P. Austriaca*. *P. Gerardiana* is a very handsome light-growing variety. The foliage is a very pretty light green.

Next to the *Pinuses*, we must take the *Abies*, or Spruce Firs. Of these *A. Khutrow*, in my opinion, is not at all a handsome sort, being a bad grower, and not a good green. *A. Smithii* has much the appearance of the last-named, but is a far better variety. *A. Menziesii* has a light-green foliage, is a good grower, and altogether a very handsome variety. Of the *Picea*, or Silver Fir, *Picea Frazerii* is a most beautiful variety. It is of handsome growth, and altogether forms a very handsome tree. *P. Nordmanniana* is also a very fine variety. The foliage is light green, and the tree is very distinct from other sorts. *Picea pinsapo* is far superior, in my opinion, to many of the other Firs. My plant was admired by every one who saw it. It grows as close and thick as it possibly can do, the foliage being more after the fashion of a hedgehog's back than anything I can compare it to just now, it being so very hard and close. *Abies Douglasii* I must also mention, as a useful lawn tree of very handsome growth. I am sorry I cannot make my notes on *Pinuses* more complete, but I have taken care not to note anything but what I have grown myself.

The *Cryptomeria Japonica* is a very light-growing graceful plant, well suited for the decoration of lawns. The *Araucaria imbricata* is now becoming well known

as a very handsome-growing tree. It is well suited for lawns, in which situation it looks best planted on a slightly-raised mound. I have seen it planted in an avenue, but in this situation it looks stiff and formal. The *Cedrus Deodara* is also becoming well known. It is suitable for planting anywhere, either as an avenue, on lawns, or in park scenery. In all situations it looks well, particularly in its young state. Many of the trees appear to lose that beautiful drooping habit as they get large, and assume much the appearance of the *Cedrus Libani*. The *Cedrus Libani*, or *Libanus*, is well known as a large spreading tree. I have seen some noble specimens of this in various parts of the country, the best of which are at Stowe, Buckinghamshire, the seat of His Grace the Duke of Buckingham. These trees are of immense dimensions and of the greatest beauty.

Of the *Taxus* or Yew tribe there are many handsome things. *Taxus Dovaston* is a weeping variety, on its own roots of spreading habit, but grafted on tall standards its weeping habit is very pretty. *T. Haringtonii* is another nice sort. The foliage is much coarser than the common Yew. The common Irish Yew looks well either planted singly on lawns, or in lines as a sort of avenue to garden walks. The Gold-striped Yew is very handsome, but with me of very slow growth. Of the *Thuja*, or *Arbor-vitæ*, there are some fine things. *T. aurea* is a very close-growing sort. In winter and spring it assumes a beautiful yellow colour, rendering it both singular and interesting. *T. Nepalensis* is very good, being of very light handsome growth. *T. filiformis* is very curious, quite distinct from any of the other *Thujas*. It is of weeping habit. A large specimen looks well, but it is of very slow growth. *Taxodium sempervirens* makes a handsome tree when well protected, but my plant had the ends of its branches killed back every winter.

The above trees, as will be seen, are all evergreen, and will all, or nearly all, succeed in any good soil, of a loamy or gravelly nature, with a good dry bottom.

The ground should be well trenched for them at the time of planting, which will greatly increase their rate of growth. I would caution those intending planting not to procure their plants in pots, but lifted from the open ground, as pot-bound plants never do so well as these.

W. S.

THE FLORAL FAILURE IN THE METROPOLIS.

IF we were to describe the Pavilion erected by the proprietor of Cremorne Gardens, for the exhibition of Waterer and Godfrey's grand collection of Rhododendrons, Azaleas, and other American plants, which Her Majesty and some of the members of the Royal Family visited in June and July, our readers might fancy we were indulging in a little romance, as some very unscrupulous dealers do in their descriptive catalogues. We shall, therefore, confine ourselves to the two simple facts, that the light is the best we ever witnessed for the display of flowers to advantage, and that it covers, as nearly as may be, four thousand square yards, so that, for horticultural exhibitions, it is not equalled by any structure in the kingdom. Some of our readers may have thought us very severe in what we have written of the National Society, and of the leading men in that misleading concern. It is a question which we shall leave old Time to decide. He and plain facts are good friends, for however Fact may be doubted, and contradicted, and mystified, old Time sooner or later comes to the rescue, and brings his friend Fact into broad daylight. Perhaps we have been too severe, and, as Mrs. Partington says, "P'raps we aint." But the occurrence which we are about to notice showed that there are others who think quite as ill of the National Society and all who belong to it as we do; nor was there ever so unequivocal a demonstration of thorough

contempt for men and measures. Messrs. Edwards and Robinson having induced the proprietor of Cremorne Gardens to allow them to get up a first-rate flower show in his grand pavilion, issued a schedule inviting all England to exhibit Dablias and Hollyhocks, for upwards of sixty prizes, varying in amount from five pounds to ten shillings, and amounting, as the large letters announced, to nearly a hundred pounds. The names of the leading dealers and others who manage the National were printed in the bills as PATRONS. The place of show, convenient for land or water carriage, and in the centre of some hundreds of exhibitors, was attractive beyond all others in the metropolis, and the busy "members of the National," who had profited most by their certificates—Messrs. Paul, Turner, Keynes, Cooke, Henderson, Bircham, and others—added their names to give weight to the invitation, and J. Edwards and J. Robinson signed it. These invitations were spread abroad in every direction, the proprietor of the gardens advertised and printed liberally, and not two exhibitors answered the call by showing for the prizes. The National leaders were universally shunned, and—the plain fact must come out—with the exception of a solitary exhibiter, Mr. Legge, of Edmonton, all the prizes awarded were divided among the men advertised as patrons. As may be supposed, the few flowers shown by these gentlemen looked perfectly ridiculous, the prize CARDS, as an Irishman would say, were merely written papers on which the names of the patrons appeared as winners. A good room in a public house would have held all the flowers then shown in a pavilion four hundred feet long and a hundred feet wide. If our readers who think we have been too severe will inform us whether they think the entire body of exhibitors, of whom hundreds surround the spot at no great distance, were also too severe when, with one accord and without any means of communication, they refused to act with those Nationals, we will thank

them. We can write what we think, but the most severe rebuke we ever gave to those unprincipled men who call themselves the National Society was trifling compared with the direct cut which hundreds gave them by treating their invitations with contempt, because it was not the vote of a body of men acting in concert, but the deliberate act of individuals, each one of whom must have felt deeply that the men who invited him and the men who patronized the show were enemies of the science, enemies of all who pursued it honestly and honourably, totally unworthy of attention or notice. It is said that some hastily stated their intention to show, and applied for schedules, but the instant they saw the class of men at the head of it, they threw it aside with utter contempt. Be this as it may, the result of the show was, that there were only flowers to take about fifty pounds out of the hundred promised, and that all but two secondary prizes were secured by the gentlemen who so disinterestedly patronize those shows at which they can win the leading prizes. Mr. Turner, Mr. Keynes, Paul and Son, Chater, Cooke, Rev. C. Fellows, Holmes, Grant, Bowler, Henderson, and Bircham were the *patrons*, and (with the exception of Legge, the only exhibiter in all England who did not cut them) exclusively the winners. The Dahlias were poor, but as there were no competitors who had good ones, they did as well as better. The Hollyhocks were better, but as there was nobody to look at them, it mattered but little. The *Chronicle* furnishes the names of the winning flowers, but they would be no guide as to the relative quality. The proprietor of the gardens was naturally indignant that all his expenses had been thrown away, but as he was told, before he closed with the Nationals, that their combined influence would not command any of the straightforward honourable exhibitors, we could not help repeating the Welsh verdict on an inquest where the circumstances were aggravated—"Served him right."

G. G.

THE SHEFFIELD HORTICULTURAL SHOW.

ONE of the most extensive exhibitions ever held in Sheffield took place in the grounds of a provincial "Cremorne," a mile and a half out of the town, on the 8th of September, and either accidentally or by arrangement, we know not which, on the same day the medal men of the Fourth Dragoon Guards were presented with a knife each by one of the liberal tradesmen of the town, on the same grounds, so that there was a large gathering of the people, some calculated upon twelve thousand being present. The society had provided three very extensive marquees, one of which was wholly occupied by the vegetable productions of cottagers, whose contributions were a credit to their industry and perseverance, and a portion of their flowers were necessarily placed in the other already crowded tents. The first impression on our mind was, that the Botanic Gardens would have been a more appropriate place for a horticultural show, and we ventured to say as much to some of the committee; but we learned that the management there are more inclined to make money than encourage botany, or anything in connection with it. If we knew the executive we should give the world a list of the gentlemen who, unfortunately for science, act as if they believed money-making to be the object of such institutions. It seems that their terms for allowing a flower show in the gardens were—First, that the society should first pay for the use of the gardens; next, they should be at all the expense of tents, marquees, bands, printing, and publishing; then, that the garden committee should have *half the entire receipts at the gate*; and lastly, that all their members (some hundreds) came in free. It further appeared that the Horticultural Society had submitted to these *Shylock terms* once, and, though there were thousands present, they lost fifteen pounds. The society, on the occasion just passed, offered to share the receipts and expenses, but the Shylock committee refused any

other terms than those submitted to at the last, and of course the men who promoted science refused to sacrifice it to the cupidity of the old-clothes dealers and money scriveners of the Botanic, who, in our opinion, have disgraced their concern by banishing the only society in the vicinity connected with the garden interest to other grounds. The New Hall grounds were, however, well adapted for the show, and were attended by the principal tradespeople and families in the town. The Dahlias were, as they have been at most of the shows, very middling. The Hollyhocks were past their prime, but there was a good show of plants of all sorts, and vegetables were fine and abundant. The fruit was indicative of the severity of the season. The presentation of the knives to the Crimean soldiers, by Mr. Roebuck, the member, made a diversion in favour of a better view in the marquees, but the crowd was immense. Mr. Law, the curater of the Botanic Gardens, and Mr. Marshall, the secretary, paid a visit in the course of the afternoon, and bitterly regretted having overstood their market. They viewed with painful interest the thousands of people who ought to have been parading in their own gardens, and after fidgeting about a short time, amidst the ill-suppressed sneers of the crowd, they decamped, evidently on bad terms with themselves. In fact, the show has been the making of the New Hall Gardens. Ten or twelve thousand people, of whom the greater part were strangers to the Botanic, was no small loss to an establishment already unpopular from its exclusiveness. But it seems the objection to people acquainted with plants and their condition was by no means unfounded, for the state of those in the Botanical Society's conservatory would call forth unfavourable criticism, whereas demonstrations of teetotallers in the town class of holiday-makers, who know no more of plants than the members themselves, produce no unfavourable remarks. The new flowers so strongly recommended in the *Almanack* and the *Midland Florist* were conspicuous

in most collections, and the Sheffield florists may congratulate themselves on a most successful exhibition, calculated to induce many to join their ranks.

THE CRYSTAL PALACE EXHIBITION.

THIS exhibition was held on the 11th, 12th, and 13th of September. We have received several reports, from which we select the following:—

Well, we have heard a great deal about the Crystal Palace show, throughout the season. It is now over, and I purpose giving your readers a few notes of what I saw. They will understand I have no interest whatever in it, not being either exhibiter, nurseryman, or seedsman, but merely a gardener; consequently they may rely upon not being deceived. The first things I noticed were the stove and greenhouse plants. There was no very large quantity of them, and those principally but poor specimens. There were some few good plants of *Allamanda cathartica*, *Lechenaultia*, and others. Next to these were the plants with fine foliage, by far the most attractive part of the exhibition. They were both numerous and good, many of them showing much variety and beauty of marking. The variegated-leaved Pine-apples were particularly attractive. Ferns were also numerous produced, and in good condition. Orchidaceous plants were but few and poor. There was a small exhibition of *Achimenes*,—poor miserable plants. Then followed a large collection of Balsams, such as we should expect to see in very ordinary places, with very ordinary management; in fact, I have seen better plants denied a prize at some of our country shows. There was a good number of *Fuchsias*, but not one good specimen amongst them; I have seen very far superior plants exhibited at Nottingham, a dozen years ago. Then came pot *Verbenas*, about as miserable a lot of rubbish as can well be conceived. Then a quantity of scarlet and variegated *Geraniums*, not one of which calls for special remark. There was a good display of well-grown *Liliums*, containing some pretty varieties. Looking over the cut flowers, I must first speak of the *Asters*, of which there were a good many shown, but, beyond one or two stands, there were none better than we should see in many cottage gardens. There was a good exhibition of *Dahlias*, among which were some very good flowers, and I was pleased to observe several stands from Nottingham. The *Hollyhocks* were really poor, and the *Roses* a disgrace to the exhibition. So much for the flowers.

Now a word or two about the fruit. There was a large quantity of grapes shown, among which were a few good specimens, large in bunch and berry, and well coloured, but the majority were very inferior in colour. I observed a good many Muscats, but none of them exhibited that beautiful colour we expect to see in that fine Grape, almost every specimen being quite green. There were some good pines, Greengage and other Plums, and Figs. Melons were nothing extraordinary, and Peaches and Nectarines remarkably small. I observed four Vines in pots, well laden with fruit, but they had but little colour in them. Amongst the fruit trees in pots, there were two or three good specimens of Peaches and Greengage Plums, but several plants of Noblesse Peaches and Elruge Nectarines were exhibited with only one fruit on each. Messrs. Lane exhibited a Morello Cherry in a pot, ticketed fruit of superior excellence, but where this superior excellence lay it would have puzzled a good judge to find out.

The cottage productions were not better than we should see at some of our village shows. In fact, taking the exhibition altogether, I consider it nearly a failure. I have many times seen better shows in the country, for quality of the productions; but no gardener who visited that show must take it as an average of the the metropolitan exhibitions, for those held in May, June, and July, make a very different appearance. How the exhibition looked on Friday, I cannot say, but on visiting it on Thursday, the second day, I found the Dahlias were completely spoiled, by the heat of the place. It would have been quite impossible to have picked out six good flowers from the whole collection. I believe the show proved a good thing for the Crystal Palace Company, as there was a very large number of visitors. It is to be hoped the company will display the same liberality next year, when I trust gardeners generally will do something better than they have done this. With regard to the grounds, they were in pretty good condition, but there was but little new, for the instruction of gardeners. The Asters, pegged down for edgings, looked well, as did also some pegged beds of Dahlias, Petunias, Verbenas, and such like. In the attempt at chain gardening, the Calceolarias had failed, which spoilt the effect. A small bed of *Oenothera repens* pleased me much. The beds of Tom Thumb were principally edged with Mangles's variegated pink Geranium, the flowers picked off. The Araucarias were surrounded with a single line of *Lobelia compacta*, which had a very pretty effect.

W. S.

The weather was pleasant throughout the day, and there could not have been fewer than twelve thousand people present at the *fête*, which is distinguished from its predecessors by some points of novelty and interest. As on every preceding

occasion of the kind, the exhibition has been arranged by Sir Joseph Paxton, and carried into effect under his immediate supervision, assisted by Mr. Eyles, chief superintendent of plants in the interior of the Palace. This, of itself, is a guarantee of its excellence. But the show is interesting as being the first of the kind held at so advanced a period of the year, not only in the Crystal Palace, but in the metropolis or its neighbourhood, including even Chiswick, the glories of which have been reproduced by these kindred exhibitions at Sydenham, during the last two summers, combined, as they have been, with features of attraction peculiarly their own. It is, in this respect, in the nature of an experiment, and, so far as it has gone, an eminently successful one, for the collection, in the autumnal season, of a sufficient number and variety of plants and flowers of the requisite degree of excellence is attended with considerable difficulty, and, added to this, it was probably apprehended that, at a time when so large a proportion of the aristocracy and wealthier classes are out of town, a comparatively small number of people would be attracted to the exhibition. The experience of yesterday, however, has placed beyond doubt the perfect success of the undertaking, for the company assembled within the building, was scarcely, if at all, less brilliant than on any of the preceding floral *fêtes*, and fell little short of them in point of numerical force. A sum of nearly eight hundred pounds has been distributed in prizes, and there are about a hundred and ninety competitors. The collection, which is choice, varied, and ample, is arranged with much simplicity and taste, in two rows, along the nave, and extends far towards each wing of the building, on both sides of the transept, the northern part being assigned to the stove and greenhouse plants and others, and the opposite portion to cut flowers and fruit. The exhibition includes a vast number of specimens of the classes of variegated plants, in and out of flower, plants remarkable for fine foliage, exotic Orchids and Ferns, Cape Heaths, Lycopodiums, Achimenes in flower, Fuchsias, Scarlet Geraniums, Balsams, and Illiums, all of which, notwithstanding the advanced period of the season, are delightfully fresh and lovely, and irresistibly charming to the eye. We miss among them, it is true, the beautiful variety of Azaleas and other kindred plants, which flower in midsummer, and are wont then to challenge our admiration, but their place is supplied by many of those hardier tribes which do not attain their prime till later in the year. The class of variegated plants, and plants remarkable for fine foliage, are singularly interesting, and were greatly admired yesterday, by connoisseurs. The exhibition of fruits, on the other hand, more generally appreciable by the uninitiated as well as the practical horticulturist, is equally attractive. It embraces chiefly Grapes, Melons, Peaches, Nectarines, Apricots, Apples and Pears,

Cherries, Strawberries, Citrons, Pines, Plums, and sweet Oranges, most of them in great variety and excellence. There is also a most extensive collection of cut Roses, Hollyhocks, Dahlias, and German Asters, which, and especially the Dahlias, elicited universal admiration. Added to all these wonderful results of the art of gardening, there are also the permanent floral attractions of the Palace itself, in the interior and the adjacent grounds, which, in variety, beauty, and arrangement, were perhaps rarely equalled, and never surpassed, presenting in the whole a combination of natural objects calculated in a high degree to charm the eye and elevate and purify the heart. This combination, operating with other circumstances peculiar to the Palace, has lent to the horticultural *fêtes* at Sydenham all the interest attaching to them from the first, and which has added a new embellishment to the ordinary life of a great part of the population of this metropolis.

On this occasion, a new feature has been introduced into the exhibition, by Sir Joseph Paxton, with the view of encouraging the practice of gardening among the rural population, chiefly of the adjacent neighbourhood, but without intending to limit it to that particular locality. Prizes, fifty in number, from ten pounds downwards, have, for the first time, been offered to cottagers and amateurs, for the best specimens of the produce of the kitchen garden, and, judging from the number of exhibitors—fifty-three, of whom forty-six are labouring men—and from the remarkably fine quality of their contributions, on the first occasion on which they have been invited to compete, the project has the appearance of much future promise.

The bands of the Coldstream Guards, the Royal Artillery, and the Crystal Palace Company played alternately in the centre transept and on the terrace; and Mr. Hallet Sheppard gave an organ performance on two occasions, in the course of the day. There was a manifest improvement in the number of attendants at the various refreshment stalls, and a corresponding amount of satisfaction. The great bulk of the company lingered in the grounds and the interior of the building until late in the evening, and the *fête* was so agreeable in every respect as to make one regret that it is the last of the season.

Times, September 12.

We rarely make objections to *things as they are*, without forcing people to make *things as they ought to be*. Our readers will recollect the article in which we condemned the schedule of the Crystal Palace, so far as Dahlias were concerned. We objected to the small number of prizes, intended for Messrs Turner, Keynes, and one or two others, and told Sir Joseph that the plan must be altered, if he intended to have a proper show. *We are happy to record the change.* In Dahlias, besides

providing for Messrs. Turner and Keynes the first and second prizes for fifty blooms, there were, third, Mr. Legge; fourth, Mr. Kimberly; fifth, Messrs. Frazer; and sixth, Messrs. Drummond. We objected to nurserymen showing in both fifties and twenty-fours. Here again we are glad to record that the prizes were *increased to nine*, and no nurseryman admitted to show. In fancy Dahlias, the prizes were increased to eight, Mr. Legge, of Edmonton, coming in first, Turner second, Keynes third, Fellows, Drummond, Bragg, Kimberley, and Frazer also taking prizes. In both the classes of fifty Roses and twenty-four Roses, Mitchell, of Maresfield, was first, beating Paul & Sons. The Balsams were worse than we have seen at provincial shows. In fact, the growers here seem to have no notion of the improved varieties, and not much of growing well what they have; there was not a good plant among them. The plant and fruit part of the exhibition was splendid, but the Dahlias and Hollyhocks seemed under the blighting influence of the nationals, and the PATRONS of the Cremorne failure were the principal winners. But the managers of that concern were the judges, so this result was anticipated. We can foresee that the shows at the Palace will continue to improve under the able management of Sir Joseph. He will see the propriety of weeding out the people who at present influence the florists' department, and who have damaged everything they have meddled with. The Horticultural Society defunct for shows, the South London extinguished altogether, the Cremorne shows reduced to worse than nothing, are among the fruits of the influence we complain of; and had not the Crystal Palace management increased the number of prizes for florists' flowers, it would have been the last as well as the first Dahlia show. We have no objection to the clique providing for themselves, but when prizes were taken care of for the Turners, Keyneses, Fellowses, and other itinerants, we demanded some for the public, who had no share in the arrangement, and the Crystal Palace management thought fit to attend to our reasonable demands. The visitors, in the three days, were upwards of fifty thousand in number, and if the executive be careful of the blacklegs, who have already got the thin end of the wedge in, and kick it out, before it is driven further, there is no reason why there should not be as respectable a Dahlia show as we had before the sharpers and cheats were even known to floriculture. The Salthill, the Baker-street, the Vauxhall, and Cremorne demonstrations, where hundreds of contributors and exhibitors have dined together, may be looked back upon with pleasure. There were no horsejockeying and crossing, and showing other people's flowers detected then, without summary punishment and exposure. It pays a few nurserymen now to encourage it.

GEORGE GLENNY.

THE DAHLIAS OF 1856.

As we have had the opportunity of noticing most of the novelties of the present year, we turn back to our descriptions in the *Almanack* with considerable satisfaction, having seen everything confirmatory of our last year's predictions. But we have been rather staggered at hearing a grower, who is not apt to romance, say that Mrs. Wheeler is not shown in a genuine state, but that some of the centre has been pulled out young to enable it to close the eye. We ventured to doubt it, but it only brought out the denouncement of the flower in bolder relief, and startled us the more. We confess to have seen the lady several times this season in the south, and always in good order, but it is a subject so interesting that we should feel greatly obliged to any grower who will enlighten us. We do not expect that the gentlemen who have shown it to all appearance perfect, will own it, if they have played tricks, but others who have grown it can tell us whether it ever comes right with them. Many expressed their doubts whether Victoria, from the same neighbourhood, was honestly shown, and the majority certainly keep wide awake in general; but we have seen the flower grown perfect, without shade or shelter of any kind. Had we not heard such a positive assertion, we should have at once reported Mrs. Wheeler to be all we said of her, and have proceeded to notice the rest. Duchess of Wellington is a great acquisition, a sort of yellow white, but the edges white as silver and as bright. Princess is a very fine rose, with a tinge of blue upon it, rough in the petal till it grows free, but a fine model of a flower, and a great acquisition in a stand. Napoleon and Eugenia, twins in form, of the Radziville build, like Princess, but all three showing the stupendous folly of those who reject reflexed petals. In a stand of twenty-four, the best ever exhibited, you may look in vain for one-third with eyes well up. The cupped petals, when the centre is highest, are

unquestionably the best; but give us the centre up to the mark, the outline right, and the face symmetrical, and we will give up the sunk-eyed cupped petal for it any day in the week. Of such character we have now the *Dahlia King*, *Princess Radziville*, *Eugenia*, *Princess*, and *Napoleon*, and we may now add the stupidly-named *Lollypop*, which, barring the ribbed petal, is anything but a bad one, and has been shown in other hands large enough for a stand, though as a seedling it was contemptibly small. Perfection is all you can want, when you can catch it, but that is by no means everyday work. *Miss Burdett Coutts* is a coarse vulgar flower, which makes room for the end of your thumb in every petal, and these never meet, a penny piece may be put between them without touching. The *Duchess of Cambridge* is a pretty flower, after the fashion of *Amazon*, and a star when well produced. *Climax* is a useful flower, but of a colour by no means novel; still, with the knowledge that some of the best sorts fail us now and then, any flower that will come up to the scratch is of service. *Bessy* is just what we said it was, "a good yellow, its only fault an inclination to a high shoulder, a very bright and useful variety, petal slightly indented, but makes up well, and the centre well up to a flattish face." All we have seen confirms this description of *Bessy*. *Grand Sultan* may also be described in the words we used in the *Almanack*, "an acquisition to the dark class, petal papery, not velvety, rather rough in the outline, but well up and symmetrical." In fact, all our descriptions in the *Almanack* have proved correct in every particular. *Enchantress* is in the same way as *Gloire de Kain*, a striped flower, but larger and fuller, and consequently a great acquisition to the fancy class. The winning flowers of the shows this season are but a poor guide to buyers, in fact it would be worse than none. Scarcely any of the old favourites were in bloom. It was difficult to find good flowers in any of the shows near London. As for centres well up, it was almost out of the question.

We have never seen the head men show worse varieties, and these varieties were misrepresented in the official list sent to the *Chronicle*. Perhaps we should not have noticed this but for a wilful omission. The top left-hand corner flower of one of the stands was a splendid specimen of the King of Dahlias, a flower which, in spite of the opposition of the magnates of the trade, holds its place everywhere but where their baneful influence reaches. After reviewing the claims of the new flowers, we find that those who did not procure the few we recommended are all wrong. We allude to Princess, Napoleon, Eugenia, and Duchess of Wellington, which are new in colour as well as good; and Mrs. Wheeler, Orange Perfection, and Enchantress, which are improvements on old ones, and the first three especially are of the rare quality that are always right up in the centre, and therefore should be possessed by everybody who exhibits, and who has an eye to the importance of full perfect centres. There is another reason why they should secure perfect roots instead of pot roots or plants. There were members of the trade who procured a plant each for their own use, and set to work propagating as many as they could, and would not execute any orders for them, but substituted others, consequently calculating on a demand for the next year, for which they are well provided; but in all probability not a single plant so forced and increased will produce double flowers. The growers, therefore, who are supplied with these will be disappointed in the quality, and the *honest* dealer's purpose of profiting by the demand and condemning the flower will be answered. Among the flowers which have shown well that we did not notice in the *Almanack* are Barnes's Duchess of Cambridge and Climax. The one we had not seen, and the other, though seen and approved as a useful flower, was exhibited without a name. We shall have further opportunities of noticing Dahlias, and will give the result before the year is out.

G. G.

PREPARATIONS REQUIRED IN TULIP BEDS,

FOR PRODUCING HEALTHY PLANTS, VIGOROUS GROWTH, A FINE BLOOM, AND SOUND HEALTHY BULBS.

IN my last, I gave instructions how to manage beds where the bulbs have to be grown over and over again, without much fresh soil, which, if fully followed up, will be found to answer pretty well. My present article is on the formation and management of new beds. In the first place, much depends upon the locality where the beds are to be formed, as pure or impure air makes a great difference in the growth of the Tulip. It is almost useless attempting to grow Tulips in a close confined place, in or near a town, where the air is impure; be the soil ever so pure and sweet, it is soon spoilt, if free and pure air has not access to it. I should recommend florists, particularly Tulip fanciers, by all means to get plots of ground a mile or two away from large towns, beyond the reach of smoke and other impurities. Certainly it is rather inconvenient to have the garden at a distance from the dwelling, but the enthusiastic florist will put up with a little inconvenience to have his things done well. Or I would advise a company or society of florists to agree to grow their flowers near together, when they can meet with a piece of ground something similar to those of our worthy landlord, R. I. Hendries, Esq., who is an admirer and grower of the Tulip, and ever ready to assist and oblige his floral tenants, by making any improvement they may suggest on the grounds. He is a thorough florist, and to encourage his favourite pursuit he has this year presented ten pounds to the tulip showers on the premises, and also given ten pounds towards the exhibition for next year. A more free-hearted gentleman I never had the pleasure of meeting with, and though an elderly man, I hope he will live a long time yet, and till he sees these grounds converted into a sort of paradise. The land is situated on both sides Lea Bridge-road, close to the railway station, a few minutes' ride, or an hour's

walk from town, and is one of the best and nicest situations near London, or I might say in England, for growing florists' flowers. There is no soil to surpass it for growing Tulips; it is of easy culture, and the only thing required is a little manuring, in the way I advised in my last, though I am sorry to say that there are many old Tulip growers afraid to try manure on their beds, and why, I cannot imagine; but the silly old notions of some individuals are hard to remove. They will say my father (? my grandmother), or Mr. So-and-so, never used manure, and nobody could beat them. They forget that at the time they speak of, the noted good growers jealously kept their mode of culture a secret; they would not let each other see or know what they put into their beds. But now it is rather different. Men of science and good understanding find it more to their interest to give and receive information; which is as it ought to be, for what is the use of a man discovering what mode of treatment is best for any particular plant or flower, if he keep it all to himself. He may fancy he is clever, and may be proud of his cleverness, but the right-thinking and good-natured man will have far greater and more legitimate pride in imparting to his fellow men any information he may have gained by his own practical experience. For myself, whenever I am asked a question, publicly or in private, relative to the growth and treatment of florists' flowers, whether Auricula, Polyanthus, Tulip, Pink, Ranunculus, or Carnation, I am ever ready and willing, to the best of my ability, to give sound advice, and I should consider myself very base indeed were I to do otherwise. But to proceed with the mode of making up new beds. Good fresh soil, sandy or a little loamy, which has not long been turned up, soil that will grow Wheat or Potatoes well, will grow Tulips well, with proper care and management. A little depends upon the position of the ground, whether flat or sloping, and whether it has a gravelly or clayey bottom; if the former, the beds may be made with little trouble,

but if the bottom be clay, plenty of labour will be required, more particularly if the ground lie flat. The beds should be raised ten inches or a foot, that the bulbs, when planted, may lie considerably above the level of the walks. The walks must be well drained with rough stones, broken bricks, or some such material, and if the water has no chance of running off, dig a hole, four or five feet deep, at each end of the bed, for it to drain into, and when it rises to a certain height, lade it out. In about a fortnight or three weeks after the beds are planted, they may be left open to all the rain that may fall, until the buds have nearly attained their full height for colouring. Much rain, or pure soft water, will not injure Tulip bulbs, providing the water can drain away as it comes; but if the beds are not sufficiently drained, damage and loss may be expected. The bulbs cannot thrive or exist in unwholesome dampness. They must have sweet soil, pure fresh water, and fine air as possible, and then there will be little cause for complaining of disease, rot, or canker in the Tulip. Some growers have even taken the mould and clay out of their beds to some depth, and then partly filled up with stones and other loose matter; but I do not approve of this plan, for in some seasons, we have perhaps a month or six weeks of dry weather, and where the bottoms of the beds are so drained, the roots lose their hold, the plants flag, and a check is given to their growth, which spoils the bloom, and leaves the bulbs weak at lifting; and this is more particularly the case; if the drought happen at the time the bloom comes out, for then they cannot be well watered; neither ought they to have any water given them after that time, and if the soil at the bottom of the bed be left solid and undisturbed, it will contain sufficient moisture to carry the bulbs through all their stages of growth, up to the time of lifting. Where the beds are formed upon a loose gravelly bottom, in dry weather, they will require occasional waterings, particularly near the time of blooming; and if the bottom be very

loose and dry, the paths and round the edges of the beds should be watered nightly, during the bloom. Now is the time for preparing the beds, frequently turning, airing, and sweetening the soil, to make it ready for receiving the bulbs as soon as November comes in. Delay after that time is dangerous. Small seedlings, offsets, and the like will be all the better if planted the latter end of October. Have the beds pretty well raised, and plant moderately deep. Strong healthy bulbs will do if kept out a little later, but by no means neglect getting them in after the second week in November. Should the weather be wet about the time of planting, it will be necessary to cover the beds, to keep off the rain, for the drier the soil is at that period the better, and if kept dry for a fortnight or so after planting, it will be all the better for the bulbs. They do not like soaking in wet directly they are put to work, but after they have got a start, as I said before, they may be allowed their fill, providing the drainage has been properly attended to. At a future period, I may say a little more on the treatment after planting, but for the present, I think I have trespassed quite far enough on the pages of this most useful little work.

J. HEPWORTH.

*(Hendries) Gardens, Lea Bridge-road,
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AN ATTEMPT AT LOWERING THE STANDARD FOR DAHLIAS DEFEATED.

THE properties of the Dahlia seem to be very little studied by the hack judges or the hack showers, for they break through the most important rules, and heed but little anything beyond a cupped petal and a large size. In any one stand of twenty-four, we have not seen seven flowers all the season with the centre well up more than once. Lollypop, Princess Radziville, Morgan's King of Dahlias, Napoleon, Eugenia, Princess, and Sir F. Bathurst we have seen

in one stand; the rest all more or less sunk. We have seen six several times, not the same flowers altogether, because Fanny Keynes, Duchess of Wellington, Essex Triumph, Beauty of the Grove, Amazon, and others have one or more of them been occasionally up to the mark, but the first named six never fail, they are always in that particular right. Many of the other flowers come up sometimes, but this is the exception, not the rule. The Dahlia has many points essential to perfection. A round outline, a round face, forming two-thirds of a ball, these are indispensable. The centre should be the highest, for if sunk it is no longer part of a ball. The doubleness of a Dahlia, that is to say plenty of petals well covering each other, and symmetrically disposed, is one of the points which characterize our improved varieties, but the attempt of the so-called National Society to lower the standard of merit, by giving first-class certificates to such flowers as Miss Burdett Coutts should convince everybody who thinks at all that the society is the greatest enemy to floriculture that could be imagined, and that its object is to counteract the general tendency to reach the proper standard. A coarse, open, ugly coloured flower, the petals of which are wide apart, not half covered, the outline ragged from the division between the petals, an ugly open face, by no means rounding, it has not one really good point, and yet, because it was the property of one of the leaders of the society, who had in a single previous season had twenty-seven certificates, this flower, which would have been given away, if not thrown away years ago, if in honest hands, must be sent out with a first-class certificate, and wherever one of the members was judge at other societies the flower was sent, that it might be awarded other first-class prizes. Every man, however, who put it in his stand damaged his standing, because an honest judge must place it among the bad ones in any close reckoning of points. But we desire to record our dissent from the judgment which selects a sunk centre, for it is really one shade worse than a

confused one, and only two from a conspicuous disk. But, where the centre and face of a flower is properly appreciated, who but a simpleton would be without those flowers which come naturally well up at all times? The seven flowers we first mentioned are on that account stars in any stand, and the only mischief about them is, that they make the sunk-eyed varieties look poor. We consider that Radziville and King were great acquisitions, because always certain, and they were always in good stands; but this year we have four more of the same school. While they lose one point for their reflexed petals, they possess all the rest, and there are few flowers that have so many. They are raised on the face, round in the outline, double, symmetrical, full to the centre, and the centre highest. Seldom do we get the cupped-petalled flowers to our mind, and never yet did a stand of twenty-four contain twelve that were right in this respect. We know it will be easy for people to say, "Oh, I am sure mine were all well up." The owl said her young ones were beautiful. It is a fact which stares us in the face, that no stand was ever exhibited that contained twelve flowers so well up in the centre as the six we have mentioned, and if these six were none too good, the others cannot be perfect. The monopolists in the trade have set their faces against reflexed petals, and to stay the sale of the Napoleon and Eugenia have stooped to means which the lowest class of florists would be ashamed of. The old Napoleon and Imperatrice Eugenie have been in many instances substituted for Napoleon and Eugenia, and we warn all those who know the proper one to be excellent not to be taken in. The only way to make sure of the true sorts will be to get roots of them from the fountain head, for some of those dealers who calculated that the flowers would be wanted, obtained the sorts to propagate, with the double motive of being able by excessive propagation to supply the demand and destroy the character of the flowers at the same time, for excessive propagation will change the very constitution of the Dahlia,

and can be made to bring the flowers altogether single. Every root of Princess we have to procure, and we have applications already, we shall apply to the raiser for, and those of Napoleon and Eugenia shall be good original roots from the raiser. Those who procure them thus will make sure of three good novel flowers that will never fail them. Those who only want to grow a few plants for themselves, need only fairly start the eyes, and cut the root up into as many pieces. But it will be wrong to trust to any of the members of the National for plants or pot roots, for we know those who have, from a single plant in the spring, made scores, and perhaps not one of all they sell will the first year come in character at all. Meanwhile we do urgently request those who value the Dahlia to promote sounder judgment in the awarding of prizes. We know that many of the beautifully cupped-petalled flowers will occasionally throw up their centre, but the flowers that always do so are essential to those who grow but a limited number. From the great quantity of new things grown by the principal venders, they are enabled to show, as seedlings, three or four of the best blooms selected from hundreds; hence the disappointment when the public get them. But in good varieties that are constant there is no disappointment, and if we were to begin growing to-morrow, however limited our space, the first we bought should be those sorts which never fail to come round, double, symmetrical, and well up in the centre. Reflexed petals can lose but one point with honest judges.

G. G.

SCHIZANTHUS HOOKERII.—The *Schizanthus* is well known as a pretty annual, consisting of many varieties, the best of which is *Hookerii*. Many people have tried to treat it as a summer-flowering garden annual, in which very few, if any, have succeeded, as it will not bear the heat of summer. The only way to have it good is to sow the seeds about the second week in August, in a frame, and when the plants are large

enough to handle they must be pricked out singly, into thumb, or half-pint pots. In these they may remain all winter in the greenhouse, with the frost just excluded. About the latter end of February or beginning of March, they may be potted into their blooming pots, which may be half-pecks, using soil consisting of equal parts of loam, leaf mould, and rotten manure, and a little sand. Plenty of drainage should be given, both to the pots the plants are wintered in and to the blooming pots. The plants will be much benefited by a little manure water about once a week, after they have been shifted into their blooming pots. By following the above directions plants may be easily grown from two to three feet high, which by the middle of May will be loaded with their beautiful crimson and yellow blossoms, contrasting well with Geraniums and Calceolarias, which will be in bloom at the same time. There are several other varieties well worth the same treatment, but only let *Hookerii* be tried once, and I think it will soon be seen that the *Schizanthus* is a far more valuable plant for the greenhouse than many people are aware of.—W. S.

NOTTINGHAM HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.—We were much pleased by a visit to this exhibition at the Exchange Rooms, on the 17th instant. The principal attractions were the Dahlias, of which a goodly number were shown, some of which reflected great credit on the exhibitors. The first prize was taken by Mr. R. Edwards (dealer), the second by Mr. Dalton (amateur), while the third was secured by Mr. S. Taylor (dealer). Mr. Lofley and many other gentlemen also came in for prizes in the various classes. The best flowers exhibited were Agincourt, Lord Palmerston, a Seedling in the style of Radziville, Amazon, Miss Burdett Coutts, Lord Bath, Pre-eminent, Ada (yellow), Cossack, John Keynes (this flower has come remarkably good this year), Annie Salter, and Grand Sultan. The best six fancies, chosen from the whole exhibition, were Duchess of

Kent, Triomphe de Roubaix, Topsy, Baron Alderson, Comet, and Floreat. There were also exhibited in good condition a lot of Fuschias, the best of which were Duchess of Lancaster, Queen Victoria, Don Giovanni, Autocrat, and Nil desperandum. A plant of Venus de Medicis was also exhibited. In our opinion this has a great deal too much foliage, but the form and colour is very good. Asters of all kinds were poor. With us midlanders they are unusually bad this season generally, and we have seen only one or two worth looking at. The Hollyhocks exhibited by Mr. Small were past their best. Roses were exhibited by Messrs. Frettingham. In the fruit department there were many good specimens of Apples, Pears, Grapes, Mulberries, and Apricots; while good Cucumbers (Miss Nightingale), Carrots, Onions, and Potatoes (Fluke) graced the vegetable department. We must not omit to notice some paper flowers exhibited by Mr. Gilbert, of London, which imitated, both in scent and form, Roses and Picotees. The Roses were very good, and in our opinion were equal, if not far before those made of wax. We shall, as usual, give a list of prizes under the head "Floral Exhibitions."

BRETTON WEST FLORAL AND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.—The seventeenth annual meeting of the above important society—the first in Yorkshire, and probably second to no show in the kingdom—was held on Thursday, Sept. 11, in the usual place, adjoining the Beaumont Arms. The celebrity which the society has gained, not only as the Great North of England Dahlia Show, but as affording one of the first of horticultural displays, was on this occasion fully maintained. Three hundred pounds was distributed in prizes. In the various departments the show was, if anything, superior to that of former years, and, despite the unfavourable state of the weather, attracted a numerous company. The show of Dahlias was magnificent; Mr. Glenny, the well-known and accomplished writer and gardener, asserting that it

was the finest he had witnessed during the season. The exhibitors of Dahlias were numerous. Mr. Edwards, of York, however, with his usual success, carried off the higher prize, his show comprising some of the rarest and finest blooms seen during the season. Mr. Harrison, of Darlington, who obtained the second principal prize, had also a good show, as also had Mr. Lodge, of Manchester, and Mr. Edwards, of Nottingham, both of whom exhibited some very handsome blooms. The premier prize, for the best Dahlia of any shade or colour, was awarded to Mr. R. Edwards, of Nuthall, near Nottingham, for Amazon, which, as exhibited, was a perfect gem. There was a splendid display of plants and cut flowers on the ground, exceeding that of former years; the Liliums, Fuschias, stove and greenhouse climbers, Roses, &c., affording a rare treat, their richness, variety, and colour being the theme of general admiration. The fruits, considering the unfavourable season, were much better than could be expected. The Pines shown by J. Craven, Esq., of Leeds, and Mr. J. Ellis, of Noblethorpe, were much admired, as well as the Grapes of Mr. Acombe, of Leeds, and the tray of fruit of Mr. Micklethwaite, of Painthorpe. The judges were—For Dahlias, G. Glenny, Esq., of London, and Mr. Atkinson, of Sheffield; plants, Mr. Belton, Nostel Priory, and Mr. Law, curator, Botanical Gardens, Sheffield; flowers, Mr. Ashton, Thorne's House, and Mr. Law, Wortley Hall; fruit, Mr. Scowsby, Hatfield Hall, Wakefield, and Mr. D. Longstaff. The following are the principal prizes awarded:—

DAHLIAS.—Open to all England.—Best stand of twenty-four dissimilar blooms, £6, Mr. Edwards, York. 2nd, £5, Mr. J. Harrison, Darlington. 3rd, £4, Mr. Wm. Lodge, Manchester. 4th, £3, Mr. S. Taylor, Nottingham. 5th, £2, Mr. Edwards, Nottingham. 6th, £1, Mr. C. Schofield, Knostrop, near Leeds. Best stand of twelve blooms, Mr. Edwards, York. 2nd, Mr. Edwards, Nottingham.

DAHLIAS.—Amateur's Class.—Best stand of twelve dissimilar blooms, Mr. Mellor, Eastmoor, Wakefield. 2nd, Mr. Dyson, Ackworth. 3rd, Mr. Atkinson, Birkby.—Best stand of six blooms, Mr. Harrison, Rotherham. 2nd, Mr. G. Lee, Sheffield.

ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

THE CULTURE OF THE ROSE.

If the ground is light, it will be necessary to mix good strong loam with it, for they do not grow well in light soil. Loam, therefore, is as essential as dung. They always grow best on strong land; take care, therefore, to supply strength by mixing loam as well as dung wherever you are going to plant them. Presuming, then, that you are beginning, send to such a man as Lane, of Berkhamstead; Rivers, of Sawbridgeworth; Harrison, of Darlington; Wood, of Maresfield; Linton, of the Pelican Nurseries, Speenhamland; or Francis, of Hartford, for as many as you require. Send a list of any you prefer, which you may choose from the list in *Glenny's Garden Almanack*, where the best are described, and as soon as they are ready to take up they will be forwarded. Supposing they are standards, take a sharp knife, and wherever the ends of the roots have been broken or chopped off, cut the rough end or bruised part away. Then dig your hole where the ground is prepared, and plant it with the collar of the root just below the surface, for if deeper they will not flourish, and will sometimes dwindle and die. Thrust a strong stake down, of such a length as shall just reach the head, and to this stake fasten the tree in an upright position. Water, to settle the earth about the root, and tread the earth firm. If there be any very long shoots to the head, shorten them a little, because the wind has great power, and might break them. But pruning should be deferred till the spring, which we will suppose to have arrived. Now with a sharp knife cut off all weakly shoots close to the base, and shorten all the ripe wood to two or three eyes, taking care that the top eye left shall point outwards or down-

wards. When the shoots push, rub off any that grow inwards. The tree will bloom freely unless attacked by the maggot, which is generated in the very heart of the bud; but as those Roses mentioned in the *Almanack* would continue to grow and bloom, so when the first buds have been destroyed by the maggot, it is only the first bloom that is lost, the tree will recover. When the autumn comes, you may just shorten some of the longest branches, to lighten the head a little, and in spring properly prune them again. Now you may study the form of the tree in your pruning, bearing in mind that all the shoots which grow inwards where you have omitted to rub them off must be cut clean away, except where you leave them longer for the sake of forming the head. The head ought to be formed by several branches growing outwards, equally divided as it were, and if two are close together, let one be removed. In pruning, therefore, some regard should be had to an equal growth all round. As it is desirable to get the head of the tree as good in form as possible, as soon as we can, we have to bear in mind, when we prune, that a top eye is sure to grow strong; the second may grow, and sometimes the third will start. This ought to give us a good idea of what the tree will be at the end of the season, and may induce us to cut in more or less, as will best assist the form of the head. It ought, however, never to be forgotten that weakly shoots are useless and mischievous, and so also is every branch that grows inwards and helps to fill up the interior of the head. The stocks of tree Roses will every now and then send out branches, which not only deprive the heads of great nourishment, but they are also in the way. They should therefore be removed at once, the instant they are discovered; whether they come from the root or the stem, they must not be allowed to grow.

ROSES ON THEIR OWN ROOTS want the same kind of soil, mixed with peat or sand to lighten it, as their fibres and roots are not so robust as those of the

Brier, and especially some of the more delicate varieties. If the small sorts are intended for a bed, it is worth while to make up the soil on purpose all over the bed. If they are isolated plants, straggling about here and there, a circle of one to two feet may be enough for each plant, but this is supposing the soil too light. If, however, it is good strong kitchen garden soil, or like it, a little dung forked into the ground will do all that is wanted. If intended to climb on a wall, or front of a house, or on poles or arches, we must calculate on their growing for years, and therefore provide more fitting soil to ramble in; at the same time we may bear in mind that good strong loam naturally forming the ground can hardly be improved for Roses that are to stand for years. Fruit trees do well on natural loam, and so will everything else, and when we are making a plantation of Roses we may look at the productions around us, and if the trees, shrubs, and flowers are growing strong and well, we need trouble our heads very little about a change. Mr. Greenus, of Watford, plants all the dwarf fancy kinds of Roses in good soil, about a foot apart, and then covers the surface with large flint stones, building, as we may call it, close up to the stems. The appearance of these Roses, blooming over the flat stones, is very curious, but no one can dispute that they are pretty. They keep on flowering till the frost settles their affairs for the season, and the roots are so protected by the stones, that they survive even a hard winter. They are cut down to the surface of the stones, and in the spring they come out stronger than in the previous year, and spread all over the flints. But this mode is only adapted for the small dwarf-growing sorts, of the nature of the Crimson China, of which, however, there are now several varieties.

CLIMBING ROSES will often remain without a fair start the first season; if so, cut them down tolerably close before they begin to grow in the spring. There will be no mistake the second season; they will

throw up from the ground very strong shoots, and you have only to direct and fasten them where they are to remain. The weak shoots that come up or out of the wood, being useless, should be taken away. The side branches of the long shoots should be spurred in to one or two eyes, and when the space intended to be covered is once complete, you have only to cut in the summer's growth to the last two or three eyes. If you have any reason to suppose that the roots have at all exhausted the soil, the most easy way of supplying the deficiency is to make a bank round the root, and apply liquid manure, a spadeful of rotten dung stirred into five gallons of water, two or three days, and then water with the clear liquor till it has all soaked to the roots.

ROSES FOR SHOW must be fastened to prevent their being frayed by their own leaves, and shaded from the broiling sun, for you will scarcely find a perfect bloom in a hundred when left to the mercies of wind, dust, and midday rays. A Rose bloom must not be touched by a leaf, for the slightest rub bruises and spoils it. Let the bloom be tied to prevent it moving to and fro, and the leaves and branches that could be blown against it must be tied back. An oiled paper cap over it, like an umbrella, will keep off the sun and rain.

GEORGE GLENNY.

LAYERING.

MANY plants having a tendency to throw out roots from their joints, when kept in a moist atmosphere, the idea of making layers must have very early occurred to gardeners. When the roots are thrown out naturally wherever a joint of the shoot touches the moist earth, as is the case with most kinds of Verbenas, which only require pegging down to make them form new plants, layers differ very little from runners; but layers, properly so called, are when the

art of the gardener has been employed to make plants throw out roots when they would not have done so naturally. The most common method of doing this is to cut half through, and slit upwards, a shoot from a growing plant, put a bit of twig or potsherd between the separated parts, and then peg down the shoot, so as to bury the divided joint in the earth, when the returning sap, being arrested in its progress to the main root, will accumulate at the joint, to which it will afford such abundance of nourishment as to induce it to throw out a mass of fibrous roots, and thus convert the shoot beyond it into a new plant, which may be separated from the parent and transplanted. The only art required in layering is to contrive the most effectual means of interrupting the returning sap, so as to produce as great an accumulation of it as possible at the joint from which the roots are to be produced. The season for performing the operation of layering is during the months of February and March, before the new sap begins to rise, or in June or July, after all the summer supply of ascending sap has risen, as at these seasons there is no danger of injuring the tree by occasioning an overflow of the ascending or descending sap, which sometimes takes place when the tree is wounded while the sap is in active motion. When the layer is supposed to have rooted, it may be cut off, and the young plant transferred to the open ground.

JOHN THOMPSON, *Jersey.*

CESTRUM AURANTIACUM.

THIS beautiful greenhouse shrub, now in bloom, and showing its splendid branching heads of golden orange colour, will stop in flower nearly the whole winter, and yet many greenhouses do not boast of a single plant. We do not know how to account for it, because it is not a new plant by any means. We

have heard it said that it grows too large before it blooms, and certainly we have seen very large plants in nurseries, without flowers, but nothing can be more easily cultivated to bloom small. We have had two or three dozen plants in flower merely one year from the cutting, and few things have less care than we have bestowed on the plant. Shoots, two inches long, will strike like a weed, in slight bottom heat, no matter what time they are taken off. When rooted and potted off in single pots, you may let a portion grow as they will, and the others may have their tops pinched off, and be made to grow short and shrubby. They must not be potted too often; the roots may be well matted round the ball before they have a shift. They will bloom the first season. As fast as the blooms decay, cut them off, other shoots will break out, and every one will flower. When done blooming, let the branches be pruned, similar to a Rose, shortening the strong shoots to two or three eyes, and cutting the plant into some reasonable form. When they break, shift into a larger pot. The soil adapted to these plants is two parts loam, and dung from the Melon bed one part. This must be well mixed together, and, if found too adhesive, you may mix some clean river sand with it, but it need not be altered if water will run through it well. Cold frame or greenhouse treatment is all it wants, and in the summer time it may be out in the open air. It shows its flower buds in September, when it may go in with the other greenhouse plants, and will flower abundantly for months. The plant is cheap, a shilling or eighteen pence per small specimen.

FLOWER GARDENING.

THE fashion of flower gardening appears to be, in the present day, for the most part to procure uniform colour and surface in garden or lawn. How far we

may be right or wrong I do not pretend to say, but of course this depends in a great measure on the situation of the place and the taste of the proprietor. In my present paper I will attempt to describe a place where this uniformity was completely broken through, and the gardener, by a system "peculiarly his own," produced a grand effect. Before I proceed, I must state that this person had been in one place for years, and, instead of following the course of most gardeners, in changing his situation, he lived in the same place under three different masters, and his flower garden had been the work of years; but this excellent and respected man is now "gathered to his fathers." Well, the place is known as Wakefield Lodge, near Towcester, Northamptonshire, and is the seat of A. G. Robarts, Esq. It is several years since I saw it, but I have still a lively recollection of its beauties. It is of no great extent, and to a passer-by would not promise so rich a treat as it would turn out to be on inspection. It is in a very secluded spot, and there are no great natural beauties or rich scenery to assist what art might do. The lawn is not large, nor are the beds cut out on any geometrical plan, but they are scattered thickly over its surface. The system pursued is that of *standard* flowering plants. Amongst the other beds, there was one of Scarlet Geraniums. The centre row of this was planted with the old Compacta. The two tallest in the centre were twelve feet high. (Don't be alarmed, reader, it is a fact.) These were followed by lower plants on each side, sinking gradually, till they came down to the Tom Thumbs. The next row to these were a strong-growing variety of one of the old Scarlets. The next were Tom Thumbs, the whole being edged with the White Alysimum (*Konka variegata*). And now as to the manner in which the plants were produced. As I before said, the plants had been a work of years. They had been grown to a single stem, and every year added to their height. The stems had acquired hardness to such a

degree that they might readily be included amongst hard-wooded plants, consequently there was but little danger of their suffering in winter, providing frost were kept from them. They were taken up every autumn, regularly pruned back close, potted in as small pots as the roots could be got into, and placed in the greenhouse, receiving but little water during the winter, and frost being excluded from them. So that any one with a greenhouse, or even a dwelling-house, may grow standard Geraniums if they choose. The tallest plant in the garden I am writing about was fourteen feet high, and was clothed with foliage and flowers from bottom to top. It was placed in the centre of a large round bed of *Zelinda Dahlia*, edged with *Forget me not*. There was also a bed of *Fuchsias*, treated in the same way, and with plants of the same height. There were *Fuchsia corymbiflora* in the centre, trained to single stems, next *Fuchsia fulgens*, and then *Fuchsia globosa*, edged with the *Alysimum*. These were the two principal beds in which the tall plants were so greatly admired, but every bed about the lawn contained standards of some description or other. Amongst them were to be seen Scarlet Geraniums, Greenhouse Geraniums (these bloomed well), the White Ivy-leaved Geraniums supported by stout iron rods, with flat trellis at the top, from which the branches hung down with a weeping appearance. *Fuchsia corymbiflora*, treated in the same way, bloomed remarkably well, and had a very pretty effect. Other varieties of *Fuchsias* were introduced. Roses were also grown in large quantities, and the tall-growing Dahlias seemed quite at home there. I must not forget to mention that the beds were all well filled underneath these standards, so that each bed made quite a variety in itself. Many people will say that so many plants take a deal of room to preserve them in winter; but this was not the case, for, although there were several hundreds of these standards, they were all kept in a good sized greenhouse, with other general winter stock. With-

out recommending this system to be carried out to the extent to which it was at Wakefield Lodge, still it may suggest to the flower gardener many very useful ideas. I will describe one carried out by Mr. Tylliard, late gardener to Lord Southampton, at Whittlebury Lodge, Towcester. The lawn at that place was a large flat, laid out in very large beds, the centre one being a square. To make this a prominent object, Mr. T. adopted the standard Geraniums, his tallest being about five feet. These were gradually brought down till they came to the turf. Some idea may be formed of the bed when I state that it took one thousand five hundred plants of Geraniums to fill it, and in September these were a complete mass of flowers. I have also followed the same principle on the lawn I have had the care of, with every success that could be wished for, as I find the standard Geraniums succeed better, grow better, and bloom better than young plants. I have only named a few plants that may be used for this purpose, but I believe there are many more that may be made useful by those who like to give them a trial.

W. S.

HOVEA CELSI,

A PLANT that requires some attention, is apt to grow very rambling, but much may be done with care. Presuming we begin with a rooted cutting, our first care is to pinch out the top before it is two inches high. This will induce side growth, and before it has pushed an inch the points may be taken off again. In fact, the instant any shoot becomes vigorous it must be checked. By this means alone can the plant be kept within reasonable bounds. The soil to grow this in should be one part loam from rotted turves, and one part peat chopped up and rubbed through a coarse sieve, well mixed together. Dung throws the

plant into vigorous growth, and the joints become too long to be handsome. As the plant advances, it must be shifted into larger pots. It is not a very tender plant, and should be grown in a cold pit, but be well covered against frost, and have all the air in fine dry weather. Plants are frequently grown without stopping, and, if not grown too fast, will make good specimens. Still they will get long in the leg and look gawky, do all you know, unless they are grown without heat or dung, and with plenty of air. Gardeners have played all manner of tricks with the *Hovea*, when they were unable to grow it dwarf. A long stem has been coiled round the pot, under the surface of the soil, and the head turned up so as to look like a dwarf plant, and such has been the wisdom of the judges that they have allowed such plants to pass, although against all rule. *Hovea celsi* blooms early in spring. It can be forced to bring it earlier, but it injures the specimen for another year, because it will grow too fast in the forcing heat. The blooms come chiefly on the upper half of the shoots, at the base of the leaves, and there is not a prettier object when the plant is well grown and flowered. When the plant has attained any size it will bear pruning, but the ends of the shoots beyond the flowers should be taken off and struck, for if the ends are allowed to grow it stops the breaking out of the side branches, and in one season the plant gets ugly and bare.

CULTURE OF THE HOLLYHOCK.

THEY require good old garden soil, well trenched over to the depth of two feet, with plenty of thoroughly decomposed manure, such as old Cucumber beds, or night-soil, mixed with the earth. If the subsoil is wet, they will thrive remarkably well in the summer; but when old plants are allowed to remain through the winter wet is very injurious, and I

remove the mould round the neck of the plants to the depth of one or two inches, and fill up with white sand, about six inches round the stem, level with the surface, simply to preserve them from wet, insects, and slugs, from which, in the winter, they are apt to suffer very much, if they are not killed. I strongly advise young plants to be planted every year, as you would Dahlias, if you wish to secure fine flowers. They may be propagated by single eyes, in July and August, also by cuttings in the spring, placed on a slight bottom heat. Young plants raised from summer cuttings are best preserved by repotting them in October into large pots, the larger the better, in light rich sandy earth, and placing them in a cold frame, where they will grow during the winter. In March or April, turn them out into the open ground, and they will bloom as fine and as early as if planted in the autumn. Plant them not less than four feet from row to row, and three feet apart in the rows. If grouped in beds, not less than three feet each way. They will grow well in the shade of distant trees, but by no means must the roots interfere. In May, when the spikes are grown about a foot high, thin them out according to the strength of the plant; if well established, and very strong, leave four spikes; if weak, two or three. When they are required for exhibition, only one must be left. The following observations on exhibiting may perhaps not be out of place here, and as I believe the best way of showing the Hollyhock is in spikes, I venture to give my opinion of what I consider as the standard of a perfect spike. In judging, the first point I should notice is the individual flowers on the spike, the perfection of which consists in the petals being of thick substance, the edges smooth and even. The florets occupying the centre must be compact, closely arranged, rising in the middle to a half globular form, with a stiff guard petal extending about half an inch, or in proportion to the size of the centre ball, so that the different parts of the flowers have a uniform appear-

ance.³ Second, the arrangement of the flowers on the spike should be regular, not crowded together in a confused mass, nor loosely hanging with open spaces between each flower, but so disposed that the shape of each may be distinctly seen, and fully blown, the uppermost covering the top; and nothing can add more to its beauty than a few small green leaves between the flowers, which give it an elegant and graceful appearance. The third point is colour—the brightest, strongest, and most distinct, stand first, but it is desirable to obtain all imaginable shades. Stake them before they get too high, and secure them well in by tying, and they will grow erect. The most robust grower does not require a stake higher than four feet from the ground. If the weather is dry at this season of the year, they must be watered with a solution of guano, or any other liquid manure, poured carefully round the root, avoiding pouring it on or too near the stem. To grow the flowers fine, cut off the lateral shoots, thin the flower buds, if crowded together, and take out the top of the spike, according to the height desired, paying attention to the usual height and habit of the plant. Observe, by topping it, you may increase the size of the flowers, but at the same time shorten the duration of flowering, and perhaps disfigure its appearance.

W. CHATER.

INDIAN CORN.

THIS interesting plant may be fairly classed among the noble objects that claim a place among those of graceful foliage and interesting, if not gaudy, flowers, and none but those who have used the produce in various ways can form an idea of its utility. In Cobbett's time, a dwarf kind was called Cobbett's Corn, and it was brought into notice by his writings; but we cultivated the tall varieties so long ago as

1805, ripening its magnificent ears of corn year after year. If we desired to cut the directions for its culture very short, we should sum them up in few words. Serve them as you would serve Dahlias from seed. As Mrs. Glasse says, however, "first get your seed," and in this you must be a little particular, because it does not show its age, and if you get it after the vitality is gone, you lose a few very important days. If we were going to plant a hundred or two, we should sow them in a hotbed, made up for the purpose, about March, and when up give as much air as we could without lowering the temperature in too great a degree, and continue to grow them for two months, not attempting to remove them until well-prepared ground was ready to receive them. The land should be in good heart, and about the middle of May we should take them up, without breaking the fibres, and dibble them in, three feet apart in the rows, and four feet from row to row, taking care to press the earth to the roots, and to water them all in. If the weather in the first three weeks were very hot and parching, we should give them a second watering. They might then be left to shift for themselves, except so far as it might be necessary to clear away weeds, which would be done quickest by means of a Dutch hoe of the largest size. The bloom, which is like a graceful feather, reminding one of *Humea elegans*, comes out at the top, the ear comes out at the side, exhibiting a large sheath, which encloses it. There are several on each plant, and we removed all but the one most forward. Those we remove in a young state make an excellent dish. The ear, cleared of its sheath and a fibry enclosure, has to be boiled like Asparagus, and served up with melted butter, or it may be stewed with rich gravy. No further care is required. The principal ear is developed, and shortly turns dark or light brown, buff or yellow, as the case may be, and when ripe travels well without damage. The stem and leaves are fibrous, and it has been suggested makes capital

paper. The plant will sometimes reach eight or ten feet in height, and makes a noble object. If we were growing a few for the garden, we should raise the seed in a pot, prick them out singly in four-inch pots, and keep them growing till we planted them out in the open ground.

LINNÆUS.

USEFUL NOTES ON THE NEW (?) VERBENAS OF 1856.

BY RICHARD EDWARDS, NUTHALL, NOTTS.

I HAVE been requested by several friends who are desirous of growing some of the best Verbenas, to give a descriptive list, and having grown the new sorts, some of which are exceedingly showy, and nearly all interesting and pretty, I have endeavoured to give the colour and describe the varieties as correctly as possible. The following were all sent out this year, at five shillings per plant.

Blue Bonnet (Edmonds).—Light blue, large truss, and good habit. The colour is bright when first open, but not lasting.

A good sort for bedding, but not worth the price sent out at.

Crimson Perfection (Edmonds).—Ruby crimson, white eye, large truss. A fine variety for bedding, but the price, instead of 5s., should have been 2s. 6d.

Cedo Nulli (Weatherill).—Rosy blush, good form. No use for bedding, there is nothing gay in the appearance.

Duke of Cambridge (Edmonds).—Deep plum, with a large white eye. This variety was said to be a great improvement on Tyrian Prince, yet any one growing Tyrian Prince, will not need the Duke of Cambridge. If there be any difference, I think it is in the foliage.

Dr. Maclean (Edmonds).—Rosy purple, white eye, large truss, and extra form. First-rate for bedding.

Victory (Edmonds).—Rosy purple, large white eye. This sort is said to be extra fine. When planting these Verbenas out, observing the colours as they were numbered, no notice was taken till they came into bloom. Dr. Maclean and Victory were placed side by side, and I frequently examined them,

but could not perceive any difference. I supposed I must have one wrong, but on referring to the list of new Verbenas, I found they were both the same colour. There is no perceptible difference in the habit of the plants or colour of the flowers, nor do I think Victory superior to Dr. Maclean, as stated; at any rate, no person will need both for one bed, and I am surprised Mr. Edmonds should send out two flowers of one colour. If I had raised two of the same colour, I should have sent the best out, and kept back the other, and thus have done myself and the public justice. If any reader of this has grown the two sorts and found them differ, he will oblige by informing me, or whether mine is Victory, or Dr. Maclean, or both.

Dandy (Smith).—Red, with white eye, truss medium size, free bloomer, and habit good. This variety was never worth more than 1s. per plant.

General Simpson (Todman).—Carmine, truss large, and fine form. This variety bids fair to become as great a favourite as Robinson's Defiance, being as free a bloomer, and first-rate in every respect.

King of Sardinia (Edmonds).—Deep crimson, with dark centre. This is an improvement in its class, of good habit and a free bloomer, but never worth the price charged.

Loveliness (Edmonds).—Bright rose pink, large truss, habit good, and a free grower. It fades too soon in the open air, but is good under a glass.

Pre-eminent (Edmonds).—Bright ruby red, large white eye, fine truss, and good habit. It is a good sort for bedding, rather novel in colour, and of extra form.

John Edwards (Smith).—Cerise or carmine, with marone eye. It makes a good display on the bed, yet not first-rate, as said to be. Mr. Smith has not paid Mr. Edwards a very high compliment, by affixing his name to the above variety, it was never worth more than 6d. per plant.

King of Roses (Weatherill).—Rosy carmine, with a dark marone eye, large truss, good habit, and form extra. It is one of Mr. Weatherill's best sorts, and must be extensively grown as a variety.

Sir Colin Campbell (Weatherill).—White, with cherry eye. This, like many others of the light varieties, is of little use in bedding. The truss is large and the form good, under glass.

Standard Bearer (Edmonds).—Deep blue, with large white centre, large truss, a free bloomer, and of first-rate form. It is one of the gems of the season, but not quite so free a grower as I like.

Mrs. Halford is a first-class white, truss very large and waxy, free bloomer, and of good habit. Any person growing this sort will discard all the old white varieties.

ROSE FLAKE PICOTEE, "TAYLOR'S LUCIA."

I ALWAYS feel disappointed and put about when I am deceived, and especially when I am deceived in floral matters. I naturally suppose other florists feel the same, no matter whether the mistake arise from ignorance or design. I wish, therefore, to correct an error which I have no doubt will lead to disappointment. In a list of Carnations and Picotees, sent out by Mr. R. Oswald, of Birmingham, I find, among the rose flakes, the name of a variety I raised in 1852, called Taylor's Lucia. I cannot tell whether that gentleman has been imposed upon or not, but I know that there must be some mistake. I distinctly declare I have never let any person have a bit of it, either as slipping, layer, or old root, and I do not think any part of it could have been stolen without my having missed it. The sole reason that I have not sent it out is, that, owing to family misfortune in 1853, I neglected to obtain a sufficient stock, for though it grows vigorously and blooms freely in summer, it is very difficult to manage from layering until the time for planting out. I have three other seedlings which I mean to send out, and if I can raise more than half a dozen pairs of Lucia, I shall send it out also; but as yet not a bit of it has been given or sold by me.

JAMES TAYLOR.

18, North-street, Sneinton.

ON PLANTING TULIPS.

Now is the time to be looking sharply after and getting on with this part of the business. Offsets and young pieces should be seen to without delay, and then follow on as quick as possible with the blooming roots. Don't let one fine dry day pass over until the whole planting is completed. Different people have different systems in planting their bulbs,

or rather in the preparations for planting. Some have their beds filled with soil just up to the height they intend the bulbs to lie, plant on a flat surface, and then fill up the bed with mould to the height required; others have the beds filled up to the full height to begin with, and then dibble the holes for the bulbs. Some make use of hollow dibbles, others solid ones, as though they were going to plant Cabbages, which is what I call a handy and ready plan, but at the same time a bad plan, for instead of pressing the soil into a hard lump, it ought to lie as soft and loose as possible where the bulb is placed. I have tried many different ways in this part of the business, and I have always found the following to be the best and safest, although it takes a little more trouble:—After filling up the bed to within about three inches of the height I intend it to be, I rake it over, and place seven pegs at each end of the bed, the distance of the rows. I then stretch the line from one end of the bed to the other, and press it down slightly with the spade, so as just to leave the mark; then shift it to the next two pegs, and so on till all the seven rows are completed lengthways. I then take a lath in both hands, and mark crossways of the bed. When I have completed the marking, I take a hollow dibble, and begin with the first row, following up to the centre, all the way up one side, and then go down the other side, till all the holes are made. After that, I take a small table fork, and just run through the bed, loosening the bottom of every hole, for, although the hollow dibble brings out the mould, it generally leaves the bottom of the hole rather sad, besides sometimes a small stone may be in the way of the tap root of the bulb, and by making use of the fork you are sure to leave a free course for the roots. I have a quantity of sifted mould in readiness, and before I commence putting in the bulbs, I sprinkle a little into each hole, and thus the bulb is laid nicely in its place by giving it a slight pressure, and when I have put in one box, I fill up

the holes with more of the sifted mould. Some put all the bed of bulbs in before they begin to fill up the holes, which matters not, unless it be showery weather. In such case, it is better to cover them as you put them in, for, should a shower of rain fall upon the naked bulbs, the drops on them cause spot and canker. I know this to be the case from experience. Some plant their bulbs with the dry hard skin upon them, with the idea that it is a sort of protection, which is a sad mistake; the skin, instead of being of service, is injurious, for very soon after it is put in the ground, it begins to get mouldy, and often causes the bulb to rot, or come up with sickly spoiled foliage. By all means strip every particle of such dry skin off the bulb before you put it in the ground. I believe it is quite as necessary to do this as it is for ourselves to undress before going to bed at night. Early flowers ought to be planted an inch or so deeper than those coming at the proper time, and late varieties as much shallower. By a little skill and care in these points, you may have your flowers nearly all in bloom at the same time, which looks much better than having some flowers drooping before others come into bloom. After planting the main stock of bulbs, look to the last year's sown seedlings, which do best planted in pots, something like the regular-sized Carnation pots. The pots, when planted out, should be placed in cool frames, and when the frost is severe, a bass mat thrown over the lights during the night, but in the daytime and in mild weather let them be open to all the sun and air possible. After all this is done, take down the last year's seed pods, open them, and clean out the seed, carefully placing it away again in a dry place, until the time for sowing, which is about the last week in January or the first week in February; but on this I may speak afterwards.

J. HEPWORTH.

*(Hendries) Gardens, Lea Bridge-road,
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ADVANTAGE OF UNION AMONG FLORISTS.

OFTEN as we have written upon the subject, there is perhaps scarcely a body of men engaged in trade, or profession, or calling of any sort, so perfectly disorganized as those engaged in gardening. Gardeners by profession, amateurs, and those who propagate for sale, seem alike determined that there should be nothing like union among them, and so we have the fact before us, that seventy-five thousand practical gardeners, two thousand dealers, and at least half a million owners of large or small gardens cultivated for pleasure, are all interested in one science, all pursuing the same object, a body of men that no other profession, or calling, or pursuit can boast, are without a head, without communion, without a representative among the hundreds of newspapers, without a recognized advocate in the press, and without the means of communicating with each other. Can this be right? Is there a class so varied in circumstances, so formidable in numbers, and withal might be so influential, that are in reality so powerless? The tailors would, with not a tythe of the numbers, a quarter of the wealth, nor half the intelligence, raise two or three thousand pounds at a very short notice, and the gardeners would have to organize, if they were able, before they could take even the first step in defence of their interests, however suddenly they might be attacked. There is something in the very nature of their pursuit that should unite them. They are all interested in knowing what novelty is worth cultivating, yet we can scarcely travel a hundred miles without finding many totally unacquainted with the best things, and taking pains with subjects comparatively worthless. Nor is it an uncommon thing to find the florists and amateurs in one county totally ignorant of what their brother cultivators are doing in the next. No class of persons more require the advantage of union, and he who shall gather them into one fold will be their

best friend. By branches to the Midland Amateur Floral Society this may in time be effected, and it is to be hoped that everybody who reads the *Midland Florist* will procure the rules, without which they can form no idea of the good they may do each other. A Yorkshire amateur believes that a thousand could be got together in a single town.

G. G.

ROSES.

As this is the "month of Roses"—not the month for Roses to bloom, but for their removal and planting—I think it will not be amiss to give a short list of some of the most pleasing varieties. In doing this, I shall strictly abstain from describing HIGH PRICED varieties, not because these are not worth the price, but, in my own humble opinion, many of the old, and therefore cheaper, varieties are quite as well worth the culture of the amateur as those more expensive. The immense number of Roses, which differ in colour, form, time of flowering, foliage, and many other characteristics, render this favourite easy of cultivation in any situation. Indeed, who would be without Roses? They supply us with beautiful blossoms, varying from the palest rose to the deepest crimson, from the most delicate straw colour to the most brilliant yellow, and from the snowy white to the sombre purple; but whatever the form or colour, even when in its wild or eglantine state, the Rose cannot fail to strike us with its beauties. We find it blooming upon the grave of the poor man, as well as in the garden of the rich, adorning both the cottage and the mansion; in whatever situation it is found, it retains its loveliness. I am fond, passionately fond of Roses, and nothing can be more gorgeous than groups of splendid Roses, enlivening the garden from early summer until early winter with a succession of

their elegantly formed and delicately fragrant flowers. You have, I see, an article on the culture of the Rose, and I will not, therefore, detain your readers with any details, but simply advise every one to cultivate half a dozen or more if they can find room, choosing those varieties which they may prefer, and which they ought to procure at a very moderate price.

HYBRID PERPETUAL.

Jacques Lafitte.—Colour bright rose, a good show flower, and indispensable for a collection.

Alexandrine Bachmeteff.—Colour rose, a superb flower, when expanded.

William Jesse.—Bright rose, large, highly scented, very good.

Robin Hood.—Bright red (cherry), in form very good.

Pio Nono.—Bright crimson, a free grower, large full bloom.

Madame Laffay.—Colour deep rose. This is an old variety, but very good, full, and of good shape.

Queen Victoria.—Pink, a very good Rose.

Angelina Granger.—Light rose, good shape.

Beranger.—Light rose, good.

Duchess of Sutherland.—Light flesh colour. An old variety, but very good.

Le Lion des Combats.—Colour crimson. This variety is indispensable, and forms a leading feature in a pan. When well done, it is a large and superb rose.

Geant des Batailles.—Brilliant lake scarlet. This is another peculiar favourite of mine, and does well for exhibition or other purposes.

Auguste M^e.—Colour pink. This is a good flower, coming large, and is indispensable.

William Griffith.—Colour bright puce rose. To any one intending to exhibit, a very useful variety.

Souvenir de Leveson Gower.—Colour bright rose. This Rose is a universal favourite, it is very large and double, of first-rate form, and well adapted for exhibition.

Colonel de Rougemont.—Colour rose, large and full, much after the manner of Baron Prevost.

Baron Prevost.—Colour rose, one of the largest sorts grown, very superior.

La Reine.—Bright rose colour, another very large Rose, and very good.

Madame Hilaire.—Light carnation, a good flower, blooms well.

Madame Andry.—Rose. This is large and fine, and generally said to be a seedling from William Jesse.

General Bréa.—Dark pink, a very good rose, comes large and full, and is useful for exhibiting.

Mrs. Rivers.—Pale carnation. This Rose I should pronounce to be second to none. I never saw one to beat it, and though old, I think it will continue to be the favourite.

Mrs. Elliott.—Red. This also is an old variety, but is worthy of a place in the collection.

Reine de Fleurs.—Light red, good.

Caroline de Sansalles.—Pink, a good Rose for exhibition.

Jules Margottin.—If you have a pillar in your garden, buy this Rose and plant it against it. It is a splendid variety, of good colour, and will not disappoint you.

Cymedor.—Crimson, a good rose, and of good form.

Graziella.—This will not stand in some situations, but where it will, it is well worth having. It is perhaps the highest priced Rose I have named, but a strong plant may be had for about half-a-crown.

The best Moss Roses are Princess Adelaide, Celina, Vandaël; but I am not over fond of the Moss Rose, and do not grow many.

In Damask Roses, Semiramis, Madame Stoltz, and Madame Hardy.

In Hybrid China Roses, Juno, a very good show flower; Chenedole, vivid crimson; Brennus, the old favourite, brilliant crimson, always comes large; Blairii, another favourite, is a very fragrant variety; Great Western is also worthy.

In Bourbon Roses, Dupetit Thouars, Comte de Montijo (this is too expensive for most collections), Henri Lecoq (rosy carmine), Marianne, Souvenir de l'Arquebuse (rich crimson), and Vicomte de Cussy are superior.

I am obliged, through the kindness of a most trustworthy nurseryman, to give the following new and therefore expensive varieties, which he assures me are all worthy of being grown.

Baron de Wassemer.—Moss.

Arthur de Sansalles.—Deep purple.

Madame Knorr.—Deep pink, with darker centre, will make an ornamental and good new rose. Hybrid perpetual.

Souvenir de la Reine d'Angleterre.—This also will be a favourite. It is a hybrid perpetual, fine bright rose colour, of good size, and will be introduced at the exhibitions next season.

Triomphe de l'Exposition.—This is the new Rose of the season. Its foliage and habit are good, and its flowers, of a most lovely crimson, are splendidly formed. Hybrid perpetual.

I think your readers would find my plan of rose pruning superior to most others, and therefore, at the proper season, I will give you an article on that subject.

DEVONIENSIS.

ON PRESERVING HALF HARDY PLANTS THROUGH THE WINTER.

MANY things best adapted for planting in masses, in the flower garden, during the summer months, are too tender to live through the winter without protection from frosts and severe weather, and it is to point out the means by which many kinds may be preserved with certainty, and at little expense, that I pen this article. Where new structures have to be built, instead of forming pits or frames, I would recommend the erection of small houses with span roofs, just of sufficient height to allow of walking down the centre, placing the gables north and south, giving air on both sides, and fixing the plants as near the glass as possible. A house of this sort will cost but little more than a pit or frame of the same size, and gives you the advantage of inspecting your plants during the frost. Now is the time for lifting the plants from the ground, and much of the success of preserving them through the winter depends on this operation. It is of course desirable to leave them in the borders and flower beds as late in the season as possible, yet they ought never to be allowed to remain there till injured by frost. However far it may differ from the usual practice on such occasions, I would strongly urge the necessity of cutting the branches of the plants as little as possible; plants, under any circumstances, will lose a great portion of their leaves from the operation of taking up, their roots being also injured, therefore it is necessary, on placing

them in their winter situation, to keep them close and give them a little heat, to cause them to throw out a few fresh leaves and roots, to enable them to repair whatever injury they may have sustained from lifting. There are but few plants, however hardy they may be, that can support life for any length of time after their roots have been cut and then immersed in a pot of wet soil, without sufficient warmth to produce growth, by which the wounded parts of the plants are healed. The soil in which the plants are potted ought on all occasions to be dry, and rather light and sandy, and the pots should be as small as you can conveniently place them in, and the soil made very compact and firm. When the plants have been kept in a growing state for about a fortnight or three weeks, they may be gradually exposed, both day and night, except in frosty weather. Towards Christmas, many of the leaves will have dropped off, the pots may then be placed as near to each other as the sizes will allow, exposing them upon all occasions to the full influence of the air, to preserve the plants in an inactive, dormant state. Give no more water than just to keep the leaves from drooping, and this ought to be adhered to with attention. Plants kept in a cold pit rarely require watering more than once a week, and sometimes even at greater intervals. The Geranium is highly ornamental, both as a tender greenhouse plant, and for the decoration of the flower garden during the summer months. It is in the latter situation in which it is at present my object to notice it, and that more especially in reference to the means of preserving it through the winter. All Geraniums will at least live in the open border in summer, and most of them will flourish and flower beautifully; but the kind which is of all others pre-eminently beautiful in this situation is the well-known Tom Thumb, surpassing all the new sorts yet sent out. The colour is richer, and the plant much more free-blooming and hardier than most other kinds. To preserve some of the more tender varieties, such as

Golden Chain and Flower of the Day, they should be lifted previous to receiving any check from frost. I prefer taking cuttings of these kinds, about the last week in August, so that the parts from whence the cuttings are taken may heal before the time for lifting the plants from the borders. Choose a dry day for lifting and repotting, as the pots and plants can be handled and kept much cleaner, and are less likely to sustain injury from damp, than if taken up during wet weather. I have already recommended that the soil should be dry, and I have no hesitation in saying that when plants are potted contrary, it will very frequently set the most skilful practitioner at defiance to completely overcome the injurious effects arising from it. The Scarlet Geranium, with various others, having very succulent fleshy stems, may be preserved through the winter in great quantities, and in comparatively little room, by placing three or four plants as close to each other as they will admit of without much pressure, in ten-inch pots. They must then be removed to the greenhouse, or pit, or frame. When finally placed, the soil in the pots should be thoroughly watered; but after the first application, water must be very sparingly applied, giving only enough to keep the soil from becoming dry. Daily attention is indispensable in removing the decayed leaves, which, under no circumstance whatever, ought to be neglected, so long as a single leaf remains on the plants. At the end of a fortnight or three weeks, they may be removed into some cold airy place, or fixed underneath the stage of the greenhouse, if no better place can be afforded them. Where there is none of the above convenience, treat them as above described till clear of the leaves and the soil has become dry, then remove them into some dry room or cellar, where there is a free circulation of air, and if they have completely ceased to grow, they will often survive the winter better than if kept in the greenhouse.

R. E.

ASPARAGUS FORCING.

BY ROBERT ERRINGTON, OULTON PARK, TARPORLEY.

A CORRESPONDENT asks for an article on Asparagus forcing, and as the subject is one of interest to many of our readers, we subjoin an extract from *Rendle's Price Current*:—

The chief secret in the production of fine Asparagus in January and February, is to get possession of superior roots. Such are rarely to be purchased; it follows, therefore, that persons who feel disposed to enjoy superior winter Asparagus, must cultivate for themselves; and herein is no mystery, it merely requires additional stock to turn upon. However, as the culture of the roots is another affair, I must, in pursuance of my object, offer remarks on their forcing.

There are three distinct ways of forcing this delicious vegetable: one, to force it in the beds as it grows; a second, to force it in pits heated by piping, &c.; and a third, which I must recommend, taking up the roots and forcing them in beds of fermenting material. The latter two, of course, involve the destruction annually of what roots are forced; and as this circumstance has tended to prejudice the practice, I must beg to show, that although apparently a matter of regret in itself, it is so little an evil, on a broader consideration (taken in connection with good general gardening), as to be a positive benefit. We all know the exhausted or corrupted character of old kitchen gardens, especially with reference to the "club" in our Cabbage worts; and that some periodical renovation is really necessary, in order to give fresh life to the soil. Deep trenching is well known to renew soils, and this Asparagus practice is a first-rate medium by which to accomplish it; as the breaking up of an Asparagus bed leaves the soil in a superior state to that of almost any other crop.

The loss of roots is easily made up for by a regular

system; just as much being annually planted in April as will sustain this system; the quantity being of course dependant on the requirements of the family; so that it is simply a question of a little more room,—a little extra labour. But forcing in the ground, unless special pits or brick enclosures are provided, is a tedious and awkward affair, and the roots so handled soon become so mauled and ill-used, as to prove very unsatisfactory.

Pit-forcing, where an artificial warmth is already provided, is of course very easy and safe work, but not every one can command sunk pits; and here again the destruction of roots is inevitable.

Thus much for a comparison of modes; I will now speak of the dung-bed mode, as carried out by means of an ordinary Cucumber frame. A bed of fermenting materials must be made, and the material need not be much "worked," as in Cucumber forcing. I force annually two beds, each fifty yards in length; and having plenty of leaves from the park, I use three parts of these to one part of moist well-sweated dung; but these are mixed in the lump, not as wanted. We perhaps mix as much at once as will make three frames in succession. Such materials prove very enduring; but those who have dung alone, can of course use that; only it must be turned a time extra, and well watered and sweated. A bed of the former may be built nearly four feet high at the back; the latter only three feet, adding linings of litter immediately. On the surface we spread three inches of old hot-bed linings, and on this the roots are set, carefully placed so as to wedge close together, space being valuable. The roots are taken up with great care, and the ground, during the operation, thrown into a sharp ridge, for a month or two's fallow.

As soon as the roots are placed, some fine and very old manurial matter, very old tan, or leaf soil, is scattered amongst and over them; and this done, the frame is closed and matted down. In about four days the bed will be getting hot, most likely too hot;

seventy-five degrees may be considered the maximum, sixty-five degrees the minimum; and as soon as at the maximum, it must be cooled down. It so happens that water ought to be applied, to wash the fine covering into the interstices between the fibres; and this is not done when planted, because it would impede the speedy heating of the bed. In order to reduce the heat, water is applied with the spout of the pot, and then another coating of soil is applied, covering the crowns three inches on an average. This completes the process, with the exception of a little attention as to the bottom heat, until the buds appear, when air must be freely given, and this must be done daily, and even at night, as far as it is safe. Successional beds may of course be provided, according to the same principles, and thus it is perfectly easy to have *Asparagus* continually, from the middle of November, until it comes in the open ground.

FLOWERS FOR EARLY SPRING.

For the small beds in front of our villa and suburban residences, we require during the early spring something to make them gay, instead of leaving them empty, as is too often the case. For our own part, we think that much might be done in the way of ornamenting our gardens during the winter months by a little forethought and arrangement. We ourselves have a long border, upwards of two hundred yards in length, planted with small trees, skirting our garden. In the front of this border we have planted a row of evergreens, and in front of the evergreens a row of Crocuses and Snowdrops. Perhaps one of the prettiest sights of its class is this glorious array of bright colours, contrasting with the various shades of green at its back. It is true, in some places, perhaps too frequently, the varieties have got a little mixed, and that many of them are not of the very finest

specimens which are yearly brought out; but the number makes up for the quality, and the whole has an effect the most striking.

This border of ours has stood as it is for more than fifteen years, and every season does it bring forth its beauties of almost every hue, while the evergreens behind give the whole a charming effect. Perhaps some of our readers will say, "Oh, but we have no borders two hundred yards long." But, we reply, you have gardens, and it is equally possible to make as good an effect on a much smaller scale, and with comparatively little trouble. If you have a small square, oval, or oblong bed, you may make quite as pretty a sight as our old border. We should prefer the round bed, but it matters little which. We should first go to a respectable seedsman, and get about twenty-five, or twelve if you prefer it, of each of the whole, or of part, of the following varieties:—David Rizzio (purple), Cloth of Gold (striped), Versicolor (striped), Sir Walter Scott (striped), Prince Albert (violet), Queen Victoria (pure white), Cloth of Silver (white), La Majestreuse (blue), Large Dutch Yellow, Ne Plus Ultra (white border), Small Yellow, Violet (striped). All these varieties average under half-a-crown a hundred, and therefore a very nice and tolerably large-sized bed may be formed for seven shillings and sixpence. And, if properly taken care of, this would be one of the cheapest seven shillings and sixpence worth ever spent on a garden.

We will presume it is a round bed. After nicely dressing it, we should plant, in a patch, twelve of one variety, and at about a foot distance we should plant a second patch of another variety, and so on round the whole of the bed, taking care to diversify the colours as much as possible. If preferred, snowdrops might be planted between each patch, or the patches might have eighteen instead of twelve bulbs. The inside of the bed might either be planted with Hyacinths or with the Duc Van Tholl early dwarf Tulips. For the small beds in lawns the same mode of planting,

with variations to suit the shape of the beds, might be carried out, or, if the beds were small enough to allow of each one containing a distinct variety, the contrast of the green with the gorgeous blue, yellow, and white would have an effect scarcely to be conceived. The bulbs might either be taken up or left in, whichever is preferred. In Derbyshire, we saw a bed of bulbs covered over with Verbenas in the summer, and most certainly nothing could be much less trouble than to grow alternately bulbs and Verbenas. A bed cut out of grass, made in the shape of a six-pointed star, is peculiarly applicable for the planting of bulbs, and if judiciously arranged, could not fail to have the most pleasing effect. Aconitum and various other winter flowers might be added, according to the taste, but for our own part, we like a bed of Crocuses alone.

DIANTHUS.

PLANTING THE HYACINTH.

THIS being the time for planting Hyacinths, we subjoin an extract from the *Companion to the Almanack*:—

None but the dwarf compact blooming sorts should be attempted. In the arrangement, too, it will be proper to observe contrast and uniformity. The colours should be diversified. Seven bulbs in a row, and the rows across the bed to be six inches apart, so that whatever be the length of the bed, the flowers will be six inches apart every way. See that no two flowers of the same colour come next each other. Make the colours come uniform and pretty; and to carry the diversity as far as possible, we should only have as many sorts as there are colours, and those should be the most dwarf and most compact, as well as the most bright we could find, that would all bloom at once. L'Amie de Cœur is a good specimen

of the kind we should look for to plant in a bed ; one is a decidedly dark blue, the other a dark red bloom, almost down to the ground ; and we should want the best light blue, light red, white, and yellow we could get to arrange with them. The following arrangement is the best for effect that can be adopted, and nothing can be much more easy to accomplish :—

Dark Red	White	Light Red	Dark Blue	Light Red	White	Dark Red
Light Blue	Dark Red	White	Light Red	White	Dark Red	Light Blue
Yellow	Light Blue	Dark Red	White	Dark Red	Light Blue	Yellow
Dark Blue	Yellow	Light Blue	Dark Red	Light Blue	Yellow	Dark Blue
Light Red	Dark Blue	Yellow	Light Blue	Yellow	Dark Blue	Light Red
White	Light Red	Dark Blue	Yellow	Dark Blue	Light Red	White
Dark Red	White	Light Red	Dark Blue	Light Red	White	Dark Red

And so on, repeating the arrangement in every six rows added, however long the bed may be.

The best mode of planting is to dig out the space intended for the bed four feet wide and a foot deep. At the bottom put a couple of inches thickness of rotten cow-dung ; mix with the stuff taken out, be it what it may, sand enough to lighten it, and one-fourth of its bulk of rotten cow-dung ; fill up the space with this compost, level with the top. Then run a line down the middle, and with the back of the rake cause the line to make its mark ; make then other marks on each side of this centre mark, six inches apart, and there will be six inches on each side of the bed unoccupied ; with a straight piece of a rod, four feet long, let two persons, one on each side the

bed, make the cross marks ; and to do this correctly, each person must measure six inches from the last mark. This marking will point out the place for each root, that is, where the lines intersect each other. On these points place the bulbs, pushing them gently into the soil ; then throw the rest of the soil on the top, to the depth of four or five inches, all over the bed ; chop the sides square, remove the spare soil, and leave them to their fate until they come above the ground, when, if you are particular about preserving the flowers long in perfection, you must place hoops or irons over them, and cover with some waterproof cloth or calico, that does not exclude the light. When they flower, they will be equally benefited by keeping off wet and sun, and they will preserve a splendid appearance, infinitely more brilliant than they would by any other arrangement that could be adopted.

EVELYN'S KITCHEN-GARDEN.

SOME curious facts in the history of horticulture are to be found in Evelyn's *Acetaria*. It was scarcely a hundred years, he tells us, since Cabbages were introduced into England, from Holland, by one of the Sir Anthony Ashleys, of Wiberg St. Giles, in Dorsetshire. Artichokes had not been very long cultivated in Italy, after which they were for some time so rare in England as to be sold for crowns a-piece ; the Cucumber, within Evelyn's memory, had been accounted " little better than poison ;" the Melon was hardly known till Sir George Gardiner, coming from Spain, brought it into estimation, when its ordinary price was five or six shillings. Much has been added to the catalogue of esculents, since Evelyn's time ; but some things, on the other hand, have fallen into disuse. The bud of the Sunflower, before it expands, was then dressed like an Artichoke,

and eaten as a dainty; the root of the minor *Pimpinella*, or small Burnet Saxifrage, dried and powdered, was preferred by some persons to any kind of pepper; and the pounded seeds of the *Nasturtium* were thought preferable to mustard. Evelyn praises the milky or dappled thistle, either as a salad, or boiled, or baked in pies, like the Artichoke. It was then sold in our herb markets, but probably for a supposed virtue in consequence of its name, *Cardus Mariæ*, or Our Lady's Milky Thistle, which made it esteemed a proper diet for nurses. The Bur, also, he calls wholesome and delicate, when young. The young leaves of the ash were a favourite pickle; and among his dainties he mentions "the small young acorns which we find in the stockdove's craws," and which are "a delicious fare; as well as those incomparable salads of young herbs taken out of the maws of partridges at a certain season of the year, which give them a preparation far exceeding that of cookery."

Things not generally known.

CURIOSITIES OF GARDENING.

GARDENING, as well as literature, has its "curiosities," and a volume might be filled with them. How wonderful, for instance, the Sensitive Plant, which shrinks from the hand of man; the Ice Plant, that almost cools one by looking at it; the Pitcher Plant, with its welcome draught; the hair-trigger of the *Stylidium*; and, most singular of all, the carnivorous Venus's Fly-trap (*Dionæa muscipula*).—

"Only think of a vegetable being carnivorous!"—

which is said to bait its prickles with something that attracts the flies, upon which it then closes, and their decay is supposed to afford food for the plant. Disease is turned into beauty, in the common and crested Moss Rose, and a *lusus naturæ* reproduced

in the Hen-and-Chicken Daisy. There are phosphorescent plants, the fire-flies and glow-worms of the vegetable kingdom. There are the microscopic lichens and mosses; and there is the *Rafflesia Arnoldii*, each of whose petals is a foot long, its nectary a foot in diameter, and deep enough to contain three gallons, and weighing fifteen pounds! Again, the *Victoria regia* Lily, from British Guiana, has a flower three feet six inches in circumference; one of the leaves of the plant has borne a little girl in safety on the water for some time; a leaf five feet in diameter has grown in five days; and from the natural engineering of the under side of the flower leaf, Sir Joseph Paxton devised the self-supporting principle which he applied, in the roof of the Great Exhibition building in Hyde Park.

What mimicry is there in the Orchises, and the Hare's-foot Fern, and the Tartarian Lamb (*Polypodium Baronyetz*). What shall we say to Gerarde's Barnacle Tree? What monsters (such at least they are called by botanists) has art produced in doubling flowers, in dwarfing, and hybridizing; "painting the Lily,"—for there are pink Lilies of the Valley, and pink Violets, and yellow Roses, and blue Hydrangeas; and many are now busy in seeking that "philosopher's stone in gardening," the blue Dahlia,—a useless search, if it be true that there is no instance of a yellow and blue variety in the same species. Foreigners turn to good account this foolish rage of ours for everything novel, and monstrous, and unnatural, more worthy of Japan and China than of England, by imposing upon the credulous seeds and cuttings of yellow Moss Roses, scarlet Laburnums, and fragrant *Pæonias*, and such like!

Things not generally known.

WOOD LICE.—No doubt many of your readers are troubled with these pests in their Cucumber or other wooden frames. I have been much so, and as I have found a cheap and accessible remedy, I will give it

your readers. I had a long frame, many of the plants in which were covered with these insects, and failing to find a toad, which I have always found a most efficient vermin killer, I found a frog, a fine large fellow, which I put inside the frame. Going to it soon after, I found a large number of the insects all over it, making the poor thing appear completely yellow; but on visiting it again shortly after, I found that the whole of them had disappeared. Either a toad or a frog will therefore secure the gardener from the ravages of wood lice.—GEORGE FREARSON, *Gardener, Ison Green, Notts.*

NASTURTIIUMS.—This year I have adopted a (to me) new way of growing this ornamental annual. My garden is on a slope, and I have formed it into terraces. On the banks of one of these terraces I planted Nasturtiums of various colours. I then drove down posts about two feet high, and on the top of these posts I nailed a strong lath. As the plants grew long enough, I turned them over the rail, and allowed the shoots to grow to some length, when I pinched out the ends. In July, and even while I write, the whole has the effect of a wall of magnificent flowers, while the various shades from yellow to almost black, present a sight rarely to be rivalled, even in the flower garden. My wall of flowers has been the admiration of every one who has paid my garden a visit. The same method of training *Tropæolum Canariensis* is also very successful.—R. C. S.

CALENDAR OF OPERATIONS,

FOR NOVEMBER.

THE removal of plants and alterations of beds, clumps, lawns, pleasure, flower, or kitchen gardens, should be proceeded with. Improvements of all kinds should be carried into effect. Making gravel walks, and planting box, or other edgings, are

certain duties, at this period. Cleanliness is at all times a paramount consideration. The leaves which fall should be swept up and preserved as valuable manure. All the waste of the garden should be thrown together and allowed to rot, for the same purpose, and whatever you have of the kind already decayed, should be esteemed the finest dressing you can apply. Prune and train climbing plants on walls and fronts of cottages.

Auriculas, Pansies, Carnations, Picotees, Pinks, and other florists' flowers, in pots, should be in their winter quarters, kept moderately dry, and have plenty of air in dry mild weather. Bulbs of all kinds should be planted during the present month, if not done already, and also potted or placed in glasses, for blooming in-doors. Plant the best bed of Tulips the first week, six inches apart, three inches deep to the crowns, and seven plants in width; arrange them properly in their boxes, before planting. Remove Dahlias to their winter storehouse, which must be dry, perfectly secured from frost, and also from heat. Shrubs of all kinds may be planted. Rose stocks should be procured and planted, ready for budding or grafting. Plant them eighteen inches apart in the row, and the rows three feet apart. The stove and greenhouse now have their usual winter tenants. See that they are not crowded, and that the heat in the stove and the necessary dryness and coolness in the greenhouse be preserved. The plants for forcing must be brought first into the greenhouse, and when they have been a fortnight or three weeks there, remove them to the stove. Roses, American, Siberian, and Persian Lilacs, all kinds of dwarf flowering plants, may be hastened into bloom by timely warmth and gradual approximation to it. Sudden changes are, however, fatal to bloom, and we cannot be too careful in gradually bringing these things into the necessary heat.

Wall fruit trees should be pruned; and, though neglected in gardens and orchards, standard trees should be pruned as carefully as wall trees; no branches should be in each others way, and all weak and small shoots should be cut out. Cuttings of Currants and Gooseberries may be planted. Gooseberry and Currant trees should be planted, and Vines pruned. All kinds of fruit trees may now be planted. It is impossible to select a better time, if the weather be moderately dry, but if wet, it must be delayed, as it is impossible to do justice to a tree, if planted while the ground is wet and clammy.

A few early Beans and Peas may be tried. Dressing and trenching, or digging all vacant spaces, to be left rough, or in ridges, to be mellowed by frost, prepare them for spring sowings. Hoeing between crops, and clearing them from their lower leaves that are decaying must be attended to. Clear the paths and destroy all kinds of vermin.

ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

THE CHRYSANTHEMUM.

WHILE this flower is fresh in everybody's mind, and the plants under glass still perfect, a few words on their culture and management will be acceptable to those who are about to begin the fancy; for, while it may be grown into the most beautiful specimen that can be imagined, very little neglect will produce downright ugly plants, bare stems, brown and yellow foliage, lanky habit, and ill-formed sprawling blooms. Like most plants, when the Chrysanthemum receives a check it sustains damage; but while some plants may be grown out of it, this cannot; and it is checked in many ways. Neglect in watering, not shifting in time, and shifting with poor soil will check them. The first fruits are, the foliage decaying at the bottom and upwards, and this continues until the stems are bare, except being here and there ornamented with a shrivelled brown leaf. The Chrysanthemum may be grown several different ways; first, as border flowers; second, as specimen plants in pots; third, for the production of flowers to cut for exhibition, like Dahlias. And when we say that six feet in height is not extraordinary for specimens exhibited at Stoke Newington, where the head Chrysanthemum show is held, and that the plants are frequently four feet across, some idea may be formed of what may be done, more especially as these enormous plants are covered with flowers. How paltry then appear the ordinary nursery plants. We will first consider the treatment of border flowers, that is to say, plants grown in the open air, in the ordinary beds and borders.

If we are commencing the culture of CHRYSANTHEMUMS IN THE OPEN AIR, we have to buy or procure

the plants in pots, and put them in the ground without disturbing the ball of earth in which they have been growing. If the soil of the border or bed is poor, let some rotten dung, the older the better, be mixed with it when the plant is put in, say a pint measure from an old hotbed, mixed with the earth to the depth of a foot, and as much in width, and on this spot put the ball of earth into the ground, with its surface even with the general surface of the surrounding soil, and press the compost thus formed close to the ball, all round. This may be done at any season, with the plant in any state, from a struck cutting to a full bloomed and matured plant. Supposing it to be done at the best time for the general management, that is, when it is a well-rooted cutting, pinch out the top, or, if it be a tall rambling young plant, cut it down to three or four inches in height, because if you once start a plant with a long leg, you will never make it a good specimen. Strike the top under a bell-glass, or, if there be many, under a hand-glass. The original plant will break out and show three or four side shoots. When these have advanced from four to six inches, pinch out the tops of all the shoots, and they will give you more. By continually stopping until the end of August, you will have fine bushy plants, that will only need proper support, if they are the large tall-growing kinds, but if Pompons, may be left to themselves generally. Here the plants may remain to bloom. When they have done flowering, they may be cut down, as close to the ground as you can cut without injuring the young ground shoots at the bottom. In very hard winters, these plants will occasionally suffer, and those who are very choice in their varieties, and grow them in collection, will cover, during the frosts, with a little litter. But we have generally, in the metropolitan climate, left them to take their chance. In the spring, you have plenty of ground shoots, and they may be reduced in number by taking some off as low as possible. Mostly they can be taken off with some root to them, but do not

disturb the old plant, for it will be much stronger the second season. When the shoots are from eight inches to a foot high, you may take off all the tops long enough to strike, and this will give you great increase, and when the side shoots have made a six-inch growth, they may be topped again. In fact, you may continue stopping them as before till the middle of August, when they may be allowed to go up to bloom. The Pompons are all of smaller growth, and they may be stopped when the shoots are four inches instead of six. The second year, the plants will give a superb head of bloom, and, if you feel inclined to take the trouble, the branches may be tied out to stakes, and be made to appear very much larger. They will take no harm the third year, but they will occupy a much larger space, and of course make more show, for the end of every branch will have its bunch of flowers. The third year, the soil may be forked all round, and in the dry part of the spring, the ground so loosened may have a good soaking of liquid manure, made with a spadeful of rotten dung in four gallons of water. If, as is the fashion with some people, guano be used, a pound will make ten gallons. All liquid manure should be made a day or two before use, and be well stirred several times; nor must it be used a second time without three or four plain waterings between. Chrysanthemums managed thus will make a splendid garden ornament, and come in flower when all else have done blooming.

SPECIMEN PLANTS IN POTS want infinitely more attention, because, while those in the ground will seek moisture in depth, and as it were help themselves in a great measure, those in pots are helpless. The necessary moisture must be supplied. For monster specimens, it is necessary early in spring to take off ground shoots with strong healthy roots. Pot these in good soil or compost, in three-inch pots. The best soil that can be used is loam from rotted turves two thirds, and dung well rotted to mould one third, well mixed together, and the better if mixed a month

or two before it is wanted. Select strong short ground shoots, and, when potted, pinch out the he ar or point. As soon as the roots work round the sides of the pot, change to a four inch, and as soon as the side shoots have attained three or four inches in length, take away their tops also. Let the pots stand on slates or tiles, or some hard bottom, impervious to worms, and shift the plants as often as the roots reach the sides of the pots. Let it be borne in mind that they must be watered as often as the surface becomes dry, and that twenty-four hours' neglect in this particular may cause all the foliage on the lower part of the plant to turn yellow and fall, leaving the under portion of the specimen bare and ugly, and nothing can recover it. But, by watching when they want water, turning the plants frequently that they may not grow one-sided, keeping the east wind from them, and constantly topping them until the middle of August, enlarging the pots until they are in those of ten or twelve inches in diameter, you will grow magnificent specimens. A watering with liquid manure, as already described, once in four waterings, during June and July, may increase the growth, and it will be necessary to tie out the branches that they may be clear of each other, for they will otherwise be greatly crowded, and lose their effect. Another point that must be attended to is the thinning of the heads, not allowing more than three to remain at the end of each branch. At the end of September, they ought to be so protected that the quantity of rain to which they would otherwise be subject may be regulated, because they may suffer as much from excess as from want of water. A light greenhouse is best, and they must be turned every day, and have plenty of room, that air and light may be diffused all round them; but, in the absence of a greenhouse, a glass roof, made with a common garden light, propped up anyhow, and mats hung round the edge at night and in frosts, is perhaps the next best. We have, however, seen them do well

under a light calico awning, but they must never be covered longer than is absolutely necessary to protect them from frost and wet. It is not everyone who can succeed to any great extent the first time, but if these precautions be attended to, a young beginner will be highly gratified at his own success. When these specimens have bloomed, they may be cut down and turned out of their pots, placing them in the open ground, where they may be used for stock in the spring, and be left to make a show the next season in the garden.

CHRYSANTHEMUMS CULTIVATED FOR CUT FLOWERS to exhibit may be grown several ways. First, however, get early strong ground shoots with roots, or strike them if there be none rooted. Pot them, as if for specimens, in three or four-inch pots, but do not pinch out nor cut off the top, for we require only one shoot, unless there happens to be two from the same root at starting. These plants are to be shifted from their four-inch pots, as soon as the roots reach the side, either into the ground under a south wall, or into larger pots. Those who have greenhouse room, can adopt the pot system; those who have not, must be content with the ground. For this purpose, dig out a foot in depth and two feet in width, all along the wall. If the next foot in depth be good garden loam, it may be used with its equal in quantity of leaf mould, dung from an old hotbed, and coarse river sand. This must be well mixed with the bottom foot of earth, the whole length intended to be planted. Here it must be noted that the ground itself must be well drained. Putting any kind of material at the bottom of the bed for drainage is a fallacy altogether, for unless water drains away properly, it is as fatal among crocks and brick rubbish as among the soil. Where water rises, at any season of the year, nearer the top of the soil than three feet, a proper drain must be made, with an outlet a short distance from the border. We have seen people put a foot of crocks at the bottom of a *Ranunculus* bed, and fancy

they had drained it; but the water filled up the interstices, and was just as mischievous as it would have been without them. Three-fourths of the failures in the cultivation of that delicate plant have been caused by want of drainage. But people must not fancy that a lot of crocks or other drainage in the earth has the same effect as it has in a pot, unless they supply what the pot has always ready, a hole for the water to run away by. Presuming, then, that the place is properly drained, either naturally or artificially, the two feet will be occupied with the compost formed with the foot of soil already there and the foot of new material. If, however, the soil be not good, let the whole two feet be dug out, and filled up with two-thirds loam from rotted turves—a great part of which is of course vegetable or leaf mould, from the vegetation rotted in it—and one-third well rotted dung from an old hotbed. In this border place your plants, turned out with the ball undisturbed, and planted one foot from the wall. Here, instead of taking of the tops, we must remove all the side shoots, throwing all the vigour of the plant into the one or two stems, as the case may be, and then support the plant with stakes, or bend them over to nail on the wall. When the bloom buds show, take off all but the best on each stem, and this may be nursed for exhibition. An awning, easily fastened to the wall, and brought out sloping, to form a sort of roof to keep off rain and too hot a sun, is very easily made of light cheap covering. Oiled calico is the best, because it is nearly as transparent as glass. The bloom buds may be treated as Dahlias, small tables fixed, the buds brought to the centre by means of a slit wide enough to admit the stalk; and when wadded into its place, and the slit also stopped with wadding, they may be covered over with a glass or a flower-pot, according as they want to be forwarded or retarded. The wall affords a better opportunity of fixing the small table than the open ground. In this way blooms are brought to an

enormous size, for, as none of the strength of the plant is wasted upon side shoots, the whole goes to the flower. If, when the buds show, the largest or centre bud is faulty, that is, at all deformed, it is better to retain the next best. The properties of the *Chrysanthemum* have been settled some years. The flower ought to make up well to the form of half or two-thirds of a ball, the centre compact, the outline round, the whole face symmetrical and close, and the petals free from notch on the end. The reflexed petal is inferior to the cupped or incurved, but if the flower be of the proper form when shown, it only loses one point. Of the sorts calculated to be grown by those who exhibit, the following list will be found the best:—

LARGE VARIETIES.—Campestroni, Duke, Dupont de l'Eure, Lysius, Pio Nono, Queen of England, Two-coloured Incurved, The Warden, Poudre d'Or, Nell Gwynne, Alcibiades, Leon Laquay, Rosa Mystica, Plutus, Themis, Phidias, Vesta, Beauty, King, Defiance, Formosum, Nonpareil, Auguste Mie, Madame Andry, Rolla, Trilby, Stafford, Hermione, Alfred Salter, Anaxo, Cassy, Voltaire, Albinn, Webb's Delight, *alias* Yellow Formosum.

ANEMONE-FLOWERED.—Fleur de Marie, Gluck, Madame Godereau, Nancy de Sermot, Sulphurea Pallida, Madonna, Eclipse, Marguerite d'York, Mimosa, Astre de Martin, Margaret of Versailles, Margaret d'Anjou.

The *Chrysanthemum* strikes freely. Place the cuttings round the edge of a pot, and take care that they are not allowed to get dry nor have the sun on them, and they are sure to root. If plunged in the ground, and a hand-glass over them, it hastens them a little; if plunged in slight bottom heat they are still less time rooting. There is nothing strikes more freely. They will also root well if layered; and if we want very dwarf plants, this may be delayed till the flower buds show, when they may be layered in pots so that not more than three inches are above the surface, and three weeks will be long enough to root them. These plants are curious on account of the dwarfness. But plants may be bloomed very dwarf if the tops be taken at the end of August and struck, for, having made nearly all their growth, they do not

advance much further, and the largest flowers may be had fine upon plants six inches high, although the variety may perhaps naturally grow four feet high before it blooms.

GEORGE GLENNY.

THE WANTS OF FLORISTS.

BY A MEMBER OF THE "NATIONAL."

1. We want an honest and just opinion of all novelties, that we may know what to buy.

To accomplish this,

2. We require an honest board of censors, whose knowledge of plants and flowers enables them to give a judicious opinion of everything that comes before them.

This can only be secured by,

3. Sending a list of all who may become candidates for the office to every member, that each member may ballot in the choice, whether he live two miles or two hundred from the metropolis.

4. The board of censors should always meet and go in alone among the novelties, after they are all placed, and everybody has left the room.

5. They should, when once elected, be in office the whole year, out of the control of the committee and of the members who elected them.

6. Their award made, and not till then, members and committee might enter, and the secretary take down the awards.

7. We require a committee of members who can attend, and not a list of names who never do, and never can interfere; and the way to secure that is to enter no candidate on the list who cannot pledge himself to do his duty. The list of candidates to be sent, as in the case of censors, to all the members, and the vote taken by ballot from every member who returns.

8. The treasurer, secretary, and auditors ought to be elected in like manner, from a list of all who are willing to serve; not to play the farce of the Horticultural Society, and send out a list of only the number wanted, and make men strike out the printed names and write the names of other people in the event of opposition, but a list of all who are proposed or who offer themselves.

9. The committee should have no power whatever to tamper with the board of censors, nor to add to them, nor change them; and if the board of censors be short, such as are present shall alone have the power of calling in any one or more to assist.

10. Dealers have no business on the board of censors at all, and it would be all the better if amateurs were alone eligible for the committee.

These points conceded, and the National would be respectable and respected, for those who absolutely live upon unfair dealing, and annually send out rubbish, falsely described as new and good, would very soon back out. The society would no longer be under the control of sharpers and cheats, respectable growers would seek to be members. Such is the opinion of

AN EX-MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL.

THE GARDENERS' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

Few of the managers of these institutions can see the consequences of electing too many pensioners until too late. They rely too much on annual subscriptions, a large proportion of which are never continued, nor are they meant to be so. An election of pensioners brings many additional guineas, and offers an inducement to the management to elect more pensioners than is consistent with the stability of the concern. We remember the City of London Pension Society, under a reckless management, boast-

ing of the large additions to their subscription list, which was thrown in the teeth of timid people who fancied they were going too fast; but the next year all the pensions had to be reduced to a mere pittance. The Royal Union Pension Fund was even worse. The pensioners were kept up to the number of one hundred, who were receiving fifteen hundred pounds per annum, until the subscriptions were reduced to four hundred pounds. The board in this society authorized the purchase of pensions or annuities by the payment of proper sums. While the annual subscriptions were nearly two thousand pounds nothing could go on better, but the failing of new subscribers, entered for the mere purpose of voting in pensioners, began to be apparent when the next year came round. The pensioners were fixed upon the funds, but most of the new subscribers brought by the elections never paid a second guinea. The annual subscriptions fell off more and more as new pension societies were established, and the deficiency of subscriptions to pay the pensioners was made up by the money paid in to purchase pensions. This misapplication of *bona fide* purchase money to give away in charity was carried on until the concern could pay no longer. What was the upshot? Why the very people who had saddled the funds with their decayed servants and dependants, made an outcry about the cruelty of disappointing the poor old people and leaving them destitute, suppressing the fact that all they had received was gratuitous; and carefully concealing another important fact, that these poor people had received several thousand pounds more than their noisy friends had ever paid in; and then, forsooth, all who had purchased their annuities were allowed to lose their money, while those who had already received thousands more than was subscribed for them, were more or less provided for by new subscriptions. We knew, at the time, that all attempts to stop the clamour would be useless. There were plenty of Sir John Dean Pauls, who cared for

nothing so long as their dependants could be paid, no matter from what source; but it was as morally wrong to be benevolent with the money of depositors, as it would have been to have abstracted as much for another society; yet there was no bound to their pious indignation when they resolved to continue the benevolent branch and take care of their pensioners, and leave the depositors and purchasers of annuities, whose money was exhausted on paupers, to starve or beg unheeded. Unlike any other public failure, not a shilling had been abstracted from the concern, but electing pensioners beyond the means of paying them was the entire cause of all the mischief; and continuing to do so while a pound lasted, was inexcusable. The only word that can be said on behalf of those who ought to have had courage to stop it years before is, that the people who took the lead continued to promise, time after time, that they would make a subscription among themselves, and set all square. Let these facts be lessons to the managers of the Gardeners' Benevolent Society, that they may not be induced, by appearances which are fallacious, to elect more pensioners than they can permanently support. Let the committee take a government table and see what every pensioner's annuity is worth, and add them together. This will show them how much money they ought to have in hand in case the subscriptions were to drop; not that such a case is probable, but a hundred things might happen to reduce them, and the committee cannot be too careful in making additions to their list of pensioners.

PEAT EARTH.

So common is it to direct people to use loam and peat, that one would almost suppose there was but one sort of each, whereas there are twenty different degrees of good or bad. If the peat is procured

from a common or waste, where the Heath grows in abundance, be sure that the peat is good at the surface, and the deeper the fibres run the deeper you may cut the turves. We always say turfy peat when we direct its use. Mr. Kinnaird, of the Old Kent-road, who does more in peat and sand than all the others in the trade put together, has a variety of peats, some good for Heaths, others for Rhododendron beds, some all fibre, and some without any, and he has explained to us the great difference there is in the quality of peat that may appear much alike, but of which one would be good, and the other worthless. We have been long inclined to use Wimbledon peat in preference to any other, but we learn that some of the very best is to be had between Guildford and Weybridge, and a sample which we have seen justifies the opinion. The cost of peat varies much, because the labour of man and horse in part regulates it, and this labour is more or less, according to the distance. Peat to be used for potting, should be rubbed through a coarse sieve, and whatever other soil is used with it should undergo the same process. The turf must first be chopped to pieces, and then it will rub through. Peat should be had in quantity, and be stacked, because it becomes all the better for age; but unless it be full of fibre it is useless. Most of the nurseries keep a stock of peat, and have often to serve amateurs and gentlemen's gardeners, and the cost is generally a pound a load, and its uses are to open the pores of the soil and lighten it up a little. Every description of plant thrives well with a portion of peat mixed with the soil. Heaths require two-thirds peat and one-third leaf mould or dung, or half of each; and some Botany Bay plants are equally fond of peat. The most tender fibres can grow into it, and do well. Camellias will do best in peat, loam, and dung, in the proportion of two parts loam and one of each of the others, and those who have to find their own peat must bear in mind that the peat which is covered with Heath is the best, and that the

barren, black, and sandy stuff, that scarcely shows anything but here and there a tuft of rushes and no verdure, must be avoided. It is not mere poverty which causes barrenness, but something detrimental to vegetation. However, we should never be without peat, for there is no substitute, and plants cannot be healthy in their growth without it. Next in usefulness is loam from rotted turves, cut as for laying, stacked till the vegetation is all rotted into mould, and then used in all cases where loam is recommended.

G. G.

A PLAGUE AMONG THE CHRYSANTHEMUMS.

SOME years ago, we wrote upon the Chrysanthemum, and we have seen nothing new since, except so far as growing large single blooms at the expense of the beauty of the plant, which, as a garden ornament, is most valuable, and is now cultivated with great success. As almost all who have written upon the subject since have merely repeated the lesson of old, which, being true, could not be contradicted, we shall merely mention so much of it as is necessary to illustrate the great danger there is in deviating much from our directions. We are great enemies to mulching anything, and dung must be thoroughly rotted to mould before we ever use it, even as top-dressing. Mulching has an extraordinary effect; first, it brings the fibres of a root rapidly to the surface, and when so excited they are extremely tender, very little check will destroy them, the slightest frost, a few hours without water, a heavy rain washing the strength of the dung through, are any of them enough to destroy their functions at a period when those very fibres, diverted from their proper growth downwards, are the main dependance of the plant. A worthy friend of ours, who had applied liquid manure with the greatest success, fancied all at once

that mulching, that is, laying half-rotten dung on the surface, would answer still better, and at first, and while the soft and tender fibres were making rapid growth towards the damp surface, nothing could be finer; but when the plant wanted most nourishment the tender fibres got a check, with drought they dried up, with wet they rotted, and the entire collection failed in their bloom. Nor was this all; unhappily our friend was imitated by all who admired his culture, and we are obliged to hear that they have all fared alike, all suffered in their blooms. If cultivators would but consider that we have recommended nothing but plans we have tried, that our directions are always safe and practical, that we are averse to theory, and hate speculation, they would be more careful how they deviated from our modes of culture. The men who have written second-hand treatises on different things, and put their names to them, have not dared to venture on new ideas. The same thing that we did twenty years ago they have done again and again. They have practised from our directions; and then, because they were successful, they have made a catch-penny book of their practice. We have never given a direction that could fail. Our object has always been to make the young gardener succeed, and to try his experiments upon two or three of the least valuable. Had our worthy friends attended to this, thousands upon thousands of beautiful plants would have been now in fine bloom.

G. G.

OF SEEDS AND SEED SHOPS.

PEOPLE are ready enough to complain of the quality of the seeds they procure at the shops, not without some reason at times, I admit, but often without occasion. There are two or three considerations that should be entertained before we denounce anybody

who deals in what he must get from others. I am not going to enumerate the articles sold by an ordinary seedsman, suffice it, for my purpose, that they amount to many hundreds. There are two points, then, that are indisputable. First, a man can only warrant what is saved *by* or *for* himself; second, he cannot have everything saved for him. He must of necessity sell hundreds of varieties of which he knows nothing, but that he has procured them at the best market he could command, and paid accordingly. Beyond this he knows nothing. Many things speak for their own quality; the dealer can tell very quickly whether seeds are alive or dead, and as there is no variation in the flower, vitality is the only quality required. Mignonette seed, for instance, is only wanted alive, because there are no varieties. Larkspurs, on the other hand, are good for nothing unless double. I only mention these to illustrate my case, any other unvarying seed, which, if alive, comes always alike, would do as well as Mignonette; any other seed that produces good and bad varieties would do as well as Larkspurs. But there are other seeds which occasionally produce valuable flowers that it is very difficult to procure good, because if a man believes seed will produce a ten pound flower he sows it himself, and if he have more than he can sow he will be like the dog in the manger, let nobody else have it; but if he be enthusiastic in flower growing, he will try to produce the best, and therefore if he let his own well-saved seed go to anybody else, he would be helping them to beat him, so that although I liken such a man to the dog in the manger, I must admit his motive to be somewhat higher. It is not that he would be ungenerous, but that he is competing with all the world, and will not find his rivals the means of strengthening their hands. How, then, can it be expected that florists, either amateur or professional, will part from seed likely to produce first-rate varieties? What can a seedsman do for the seeds of florists' flowers? Why, apply to

those who grow florists' flowers, and raise florists' flowers. Now, then, I come to the point which I have been driving at. A B, the grower of Dahlias, raises hundreds of seedlings. Among these, let the seed be saved as well as possible, there are semi-double, and even single flowers, and a great number that are double but faulty. This batch of seedlings will yield a good crop of seed, the semi-double and single seed more freely than the double. Mr. C D, the seedsman, knows A B to be a popular grower, applies for seed, and is served with what the grower knows he would not trust to himself. But the seedsman could do no more than go to the best market; he knew nothing of the quality, and therefore had to sell as he bought. Just so it is with all flower seeds that produce new varieties which bring large sums, and this it is which renders it almost hopeless to get from ordinary seed of commerce anything like novelty and excellence. Dahlias, Geraniums, Polyanthus, Auriculas, Ranunculus, Tulips, Verbenas, Petunias, Calceolarias, Cinerarias, and all other florists' flowers seeds are equally difficult to get good. Even the florists who are famous for the growth of them are but men, and is it reasonable to suppose that they will part with seed specially saved to raise their own new varieties from? Well, then, where are we to procure good seed? Why, save it yourself. But could we not have a seedling society, with garden enough to raise seed and seedlings to be divided among the members? Many of us have very limited gardens, and cannot afford room to raise seedlings. A piece of ground or a walled garden might be rented, and, at all events, everything that grows in the open air might be saved. Mr. Glenny gave us, years ago, in the *Garden Almanack*, the best possible instructions for saving seed calculated to give us novelty. I do not propose to give all he said about it, but the spirit of the lesson was this:—

Procure a few of the best known varieties of whatever you desire to improve, taking care, in the

selection, that you get the best of each colour or character. Plant them together, with none other of the same family near them. Mark the best flowers that come, and pick all others off, for he says that bad flowers which come on good varieties, such as Dahlias not perfectly double, Pansies not up to the mark in character, &c., will produce seed that will bring equally bad varieties as the individual blooms they were saved from. When seed is thus saved from the best flowers only, in good character, and of the best varieties, it cannot fail to give a very gratifying result, and there is every hope that among them we may find some improvements.

There is no doubt all of us can act upon this more or less, but if we have no room to raise seedlings, we are none the forwarder. I wish some of your correspondents would put their thoughts together upon the subject of a garden; but, in the meantime, remember that, although the seedsman might guarantee many of his seeds, it is next to impossible that he can answer for the seeds of florists' flowers.

A METROPOLITAN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MIDLAND FLORIST.

SIR,—Permit me to congratulate you on the accession of subscribers to your useful little work, the first and the best of garden periodicals. Of the increase I judge from my own neighbourhood, where it was only known to a few of us, and is now in the hands of most who love a garden. I consider that horticulture has of late years suffered greatly from the disappointments to which all who bought new things have been subject. Losing the money we lay out is bad enough, but what is that compared with the loss of time and space to those who are limited in their gardens? I most respectfully urge you to persevere in the notice of novelties, and the society you have

established in Nottingham is calculated to assist you in that useful feature. They ought to make your work the organ for communicating their proceedings, and as we know the florists of Nottingham are good judges, and must, like us, have been bitten when they trusted to the descriptions in catalogues, they, like us, are interested in making known what is good or bad among the novelties of last season, and I would suggest that all the members would do good service if they only reported the true characters of the few novelties they may have grown. I would have them give fair and honest opinions of everything, taking for their guide "The Properties of Flowers and Plants," upon which all good florists now rely. Let them pay no attention whatever to who sold the flowers, nor who raised them, for it is a matter of indifference. I am no friend to abuse, and it is possible some of the articles that have appeared may displease a few people, but remember, truth, like charity, "covereth a multitude of sins." But the naked truth is, nevertheless, very ugly sometimes. I am not squeamish myself in these matters, but I consider the duty of a journalist is to publish "the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth," and if he be cowardly in these matters, and suppress any material fact, his journal ceases to be of any value. I wish growers would be a little more communicative, and that they would fearlessly give their opinions on everything that concerned the interests of gardeners, amateur and professional. It cannot be denied that a portion of the trade have combined to form a strong party to uphold the system of false descriptions and unfair dealing, and that this has been combated with great energy by one fearless pen. Nor can it be denied that the floral world is just now divided into two parties, the one party endeavouring to live upon the enthusiastic and the credulous, and the other endeavouring to resist the encroachments of their opponents, and I feel certain that it must end in the publication of the names of those who combine

against the general welfare of those engaged in cultivation, and a resolute determination of the public to have no dealings with any of them. Meanwhile let me urge you to "*be just, and fear not,*" for it is the independence of your journal that renders it valuable, and any faltering, or trimming, or milk and water treatment, will be fatal to its triumph.

A LOOKER-ON.

Birmingham.

TAYLOR'S LUCIA ROSE FLAKE CARNATION.

AT page 372 of your last issue of the *Midland Florist*, Mr. Taylor, of Sneinton, near Nottingham, has taken some pains to impress on your readers the extreme delicacy of his honest principles. Well, 'tis a laudable pride, and I heartily wish him its due recompense. In reference to the (I presume) secondary purpose of his remarks, he states (in effect) that no one has yet obtained "*Lucia*?" and yet I implicitly believe that what I obtained from Mr. Brown, florist, Lozells, Birmingham, is the true, genuine, original Taylor's Lucia R. F. Carnation, and that the same was obtained by Mr. Brown in a perfectly honourable manner. That I am not the only party who has obtained his flower through the same medium, I can fully satisfy him, if necessary. My impression is this—the original "*Lucia*" is *out under another name* (which I will be at some pains to ascertain, should I live till next blooming season), and there is another "*Lucia*" *coming*, which I sincerely trust will be distinct from, and equal to, the present beautiful "*Lucia*," when I am sure the public will thank him, and I hope exonerate me for charging them one shilling and sixpence for a flower that will yet, for many years to come, be well worth three times the money, which all who may bloom it will readily attest. I presume Mr. Taylor's memory has played him "*fickle*" in this case, and trust the con-

firmation will prove salutary, as it must be very uncongenial to his feelings, the final settlement of this disputed matter.

R. R. OSWALD.

Birmingham, Vauxhall, Nov. 12, 1856.

WHO ARE THE FRIENDS OF FLORICULTURE ?

THOSE who endeavour to make amateur gardeners, and especially young ones, succeed in all they undertake. This can only be done by imparting to them the most useful knowledge, by teaching them the most successful practice, by leading them to cultivate the subjects most likely to gratify their young ambition, and cautioning them against everything that is costly and uncertain. The beginners had, for many years before we knew much of floriculture, always been a sort of easy prey to the old and artful florists. We all know that florists' flowers have progressed for many years, and that as new varieties beat old ones, the old ones were put aside, or kept in the back-ground, or were discarded altogether. But a young beginner, who applied for a little collection to begin with, was as sure to be served with all the most common of their kind, as he was to be served at all. "A capital collection for a beginner," said the artful old dealers, even of that day. Well, the young one grew them up to as near perfection as he could, walked about among the older growers, and saw that everything they came near was better than his own, and many a well-inclined amateur has been disgusted with the inferiority of his own flowers, and given up the task as hopeless. Many an aspirant to floral honours has given up florists' flowers in despair, and contented himself with common border things and vegetables. "Capital collection for a beginner" sounds very glib, and is pregnant with meaning, but what right has a beginner to be served worse than an old stager? Why should he not have the very best

to begin with? He is under plenty of disadvantage from his inexperience. He ought at least to be treated fairly. The silly notion that a beginner must begin as his grandfather began, with a collection of flowers that has since been beaten, has been long exploded, except among those who depend on the ignorant for their trade, and it is our duty, as well as that of every experienced florist, to protect the amateur at the onset. If a young gardener begin to grow Hollyhocks, is it right that he should be fobbed off with the varieties that have been improved upon? If he desire to grow Tulips, is it fair that he should begin with the foul, narrow-petalled, common sorts, that have been thrown away from best beds years ago? No; if he have but a few of anything, they ought to be the best; not the dearest, but the best of those things that are plentiful, and there is no lack of such, among flowers we grow. It is for this that we give occasional lists of things they may safely buy, and be secure from disappointment. Whether fruit, flowers, plants, or vegetables, they ought to be supplied to young beginners with more caution as to quality than to old and experienced men. With regard to the growing of everything there is now a great change, lessons of practice, rendering the task easy and light by comparison, have been given for the last five and twenty years, in all forms, and this accounts for the superiority of many productions grown by amateurs, superior to those of professional gardeners. The practice is as good and the attention better, because the amateur or the cottager, however humble, has but two or three things that he prides himself in, while the professional gardener has everything to produce. The success of the amateur produces enthusiasm, and the cultivator of trifles becomes in time the grower of first-rate florists' flowers. Abercrombie's *Every Man his own Gardener* was, from its simplicity, its comprehensiveness, its correctness, the best book of its day. It made thousands gardeners who never thought of it before

they saw the book. It improved every gentleman's gardener in the country. It supplied every book-making pretender with the materials he was ready enough to plunder. It had only one fault that kept it out of the hands of the very humble, but it was a standard work, and will remain so as long as gardening is fashionable, nay, as long as it is useful. As time advances, and the science is improved, so the succeeding editions are improved also, not by altering, but by adding, and it forms one of the most conspicuous volumes in every library. Abercrombie on gardening is like Isaac Walton on angling, every one who possesses the one or the other must have their master-book. But the mass have not been forgotten, *Gardening for the Million* and the *Garden Almanack* have, for nearly twenty years, supplied the humble with enough to make them succeed in all the wants for a family, and have induced great numbers to enter the field of competition. Periodicals are not wanting to supply the highest rank with useful information, and papers such as the *Weekly Times* and *Lloyd's News* reach absolutely millions every week, conveying useful lessons and interesting gossip, agreeable and profitable to all who love a garden, while for the learned there is the *Gardener's Chronicle*, for those who are fond of the more abstruse inquiries.

THE CAUSE AND SUGGESTIONS FOR THE REMEDY OF THE FAILURE OF THE POTATO CROP.

WITH your permission, I will give your readers a few observations on the culture and improvement of that very needful vegetable, the Potato. In many instances, of late years, the crops have either totally or partially failed, and so much so this year especially, that to the poorer classes of the community it has been productive of much distress and want; and as, for the last five or six years, I have paid especial

attention to the culture of this vegetable, a few remarks will not be found out of place. From experiments and observations I have made, and from particulars learnt from friends, I have come to the conclusion that one great cause of the failure in the crop, as regards the quantity, is the over-ripeness of the seed, by being kept in too large quantities in the pits causing them to heat. This is the cause of so many complaints of Potatoes having missed—the seed having rotted. By over-ripeness I mean, allowing the tubers to remain in the ground until the tops are quite dead, and the vegetable sap contained in the bulb for the reproduction of the future plant is partially dried up, and the Potatoes themselves having become mealy, a quality particularly desirable, nay indispensable, for the table, but injurious to the crop for the ensuing year.

To prevent this, the remedy is simple enough. Those Potatoes intended for seed should be taken up as soon as they have attained their full size, and while the tops are green. In pitting, avoid placing too many together, and by so doing they will not commence to vegetate as if in large quantities. About the middle of February take them from the pits, and place them on a floor, exposed to the light and air, and if placed in thin quantities they will not require the shoots to be taken off, as is frequently the case when too many are placed together, and caused to vegetate too freely. If you have no convenience as described, make pits, eighteen inches to two feet deep, covering with straw in the usual way, and then placing soil over the straw, to the depth of two or three feet. You will find the growing process not to take place to any serious extent until they are wanted for planting. In the next place, I always plant whole Potatoes. Some might think that this would require more seed, but I always allow plenty of space between the rows, and it will be found that two rows, having plenty of space between them, will produce a greater weight of Potatoes than three rows planted in the

same space. Early planting will always be found to be beneficial to the crops, and will also enable them to be got in much better, having plenty of time to ripen, and attain that mealy quality so desirable for the table. There has been much said on the disease of the Potato, and a great variety of opinions as regards the cause. This I cannot form any opinion of, but will give a few observations on a preventive. It is well known by many of the inhabitants of Nottingham and its neighbourhood, that, for the last several years, we have received large supplies of good and sound Potatoes from various parts of the county. In particular, from Oxtou Forest, where a great deal of Gorse and Ling was grubbed up and burnt, and the ashes dug in, after which it was planted with Potatoes, and these Potatoes, when autumn came, have been entirely free from disease. The greater part of the old Forest of Sherwood, near Mansfield, has also been operated upon, with equally satisfactory results. At Calverton, also, on some land cleared in the same way, and the ashes dug in, there was another successful issue. At Newstead there is some land which had formerly been a Larch plantation; this has been cleared and burnt, and, while several fields adjoining are subject to disease, the Potatoes on this clearing are free. Many of your readers will at once say, that the land being fresh is the reason of so great a difference, but this cannot be, in proof of which I give the following instance:—About four years ago, I planted a field with Potatoes, and no one ever remembered this field to have been planted with Potatoes before, not even “the oldest inhabitant.” The field had not been broken up for years, and yet when I came to take up the roots they were badly diseased. This year (1856) Robert Holden, Esq., of Nuthall Temple, has a quantity of Potatoes which are free from disease, while nearly all those belonging to other parties in the same parish are diseased. How is this? Not because the land is fresh, or that the ground is dryer. Neither are

Mr. Holden's Potatoes different. The Rev. Mr Plumptre told me that he had planted ten pecks of Potatoes which had produced him ten sacks, of large size, free from disease (no cause for grumbling here). His neighbours' crops are bad, and what there are of them are diseased. The two gentlemen above-named both planted their Potatoes in wood ashes. This I firmly believe to be the only cause of their crops being free from disease, for I have frequently noticed, in getting up Potatoes, that where rubbish has been burnt the Potatoes are sound, and I have no doubt that the reason of the crops at Oxton Forest, Mansfield, Calverton, and Newstead being free from disease is the presence of the burnt wood, Ling, &c., &c.

The subject is one worthy the attention of all, and if such good results can be found from such a simple cause, it is well worth a trial.

RICHARD EDWARDS.

TOBACCO FOR FUMIGATING.


EVERYBODY who has a greenhouse, or hothouse, should grow his own Tobacco. There is nothing more simple than its culture, even to perfection. Sow the seed in heat, in March; or if you have only a greenhouse, sow a month earlier. As soon as the plants are large enough to handle, prick them out round the sides of four-inch pots, about five in a pot, at equal distances. Keep them near the glass, and if in a hotbed, fail not at all opportunities to give them air, to prevent their drawing; and in May remove them to a cold frame, or the greenhouse. Prepare the ground for their reception by dressing it well, if it be not already rich, and the first week in June, plant them out, two feet apart. Turn out the ball whole; thrust your finger down the middle of the ball, and it will break outwards, so that the plants will easily separate; water them in, and leave them to

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their chance. If the weather prove dry, they will require one or two more waterings; but when once established, they may be left to the chance of rain only; and if there be little or none, no matter, when it comes into flower it will do no more good, and may be gathered. Strip the leaves off, and when they are wilted, thrust them into hampers as close as possible. In three or four days it will heat, when it must be turned out, and separated for a day in a dry place. It must then be returned to the hamper, and will heat again, when it must be treated as before. By the time this has been done about four times, it will give out the smell of fine tobacco, and be dry enough to store. This will be as good as any that can be bought, and would manufacture as well as American. It is an error to suppose it wants any mixture to answer all the purposes; and it is very superior to Tobacco paper, the fumes of which are far more dangerous than pure Tobacco smoke. Those who wish to excel, will take the trouble to repot them singly, in four-inch pots, as soon as they have grown strong in their first pots, and grow them up very strong before they are planted out. Tobacco is by no means an ugly plant; it reminds one of a Sun-flower, until it shows bloom, which comes in a loose truss, or spike, of whitish or pink colour. The sort called Virginia is the best for our culture.

Glenny's Garden Almanack for 1857.

CALENDAR OF OPERATIONS, FOR DECEMBER.



All half-hardy shrubs, Fuchsias, and other plants not capable of standing hard frost, should have litter laid about their roots, and up their stems. Tender Roses should be taken up and laid in by the heels, in a shed or outhouse, where the frost will not reach them, and be covered with straw or litter. Hearts-ease and Pinks should have litter over them in case of hard

weather, and those in pots and frames should have but little water, plenty of air, and be kept from cold winds. Tulips should be covered against frost, which, though not killing, is injurious to the blooms if it reach the bulbs; those in the outer beds, though not, perhaps, of so much importance as the best or show bed, may have hoops and mats over them with advantage. Carnations, Picotees, and Auriculas, as well, indeed, as all plants in pits and frames, should be kept pretty dry, and in mild dry weather have all the air that can be given, by taking off the glasses altogether. All dead leaves should be taken off, the surface occasionally stirred, and the greatest care should be taken that no snails or slugs harbour among the pots, and that the bottom of the pits or frames be dry. Continue to take into the greenhouse flowers and plants to be forced, and from the greenhouse take them to the stove.

If the weather be mild, the vegetable garden should have the management of last and previous months continued; but, as it is a month for alterations and improvements, like November, everything that comes out of the ordinary routine should be done. It is the best month for draining, and, if mild, for ground work in general. Plantations of Rhubarb, Seakale, Asparagus, can be made. Potatoes may be planted. Leaves, sand, peat, turves, loam, horse, cow, sheep, and other dungs, should be collected; everything that requires labour, independent of the garden operations, should be done during the months that the ground lies still, as it were. Labels, stakes, and sticks should be prepared; flower pots not in use should be washed; all places kept clean and tidy, and everything kept in its place, ready for the more pressing business of the spring.

FLORAL EXHIBITIONS.

TULIP SHOW.

At the house of Mr. James Miller, Staley Bridge, May 29.

Maiden Prize.—Charles X., J. Porter.

Feathered Bizarres.

- 1 Charles X., J. Barratt
- 2 Waterloo, J. Lawton
- 3 Magnum, T. Macgregor
- 4 Crown Prince, T. Penk
- 5 Duke of Wellington, W. Pickering
- 6 Duke of Devonshire, G. Chadwick
- 7 Goud Beurs, J. Muir

Flamed Bizarres.

- 1 Sanzio, J. Barratt
- 2 Duke of Devonshire, ditto
- 3 Charles X., R. Kaye

- 4 Paul Pry, W. Pickering
- 5 Lustre, J. Miller
- 6 Surpass Lacantique, J. Knott
- 7 Albion, W. Sheldermine

Feathered Byblæmens.

- 1 Bienfait, J. Knott
- 2 Lewold, J. Barratt
- 3 Lancashire Hero, ditto
- 4 Edgar, ditto
- 5 Violet Winner, ditto
- 6 Louis XVI., ditto
- 7 La Belle Narene, R. Kaye

Flamed Byblæmens.

- 1 Bienfait, T. Macgregor
- 2 Incomparable, J. Barratt
- 3 Stockport Queen, W. Pickering
- 4 Darby's Nine, J. Miller
- 5 Roi de Siam, T. Perkins
- 6 Violet Wallers, W. Shelmerdine
- 7 Competitor, ditto

Feathered Roses.

- 1 Heroine, J. Miller
- 2 Lady Crewe, W. Shelmerdine
- 3 Comte, J. Barratt
- 4 Hurst Rose, T. Penk
- 5 Dolittle, W. Shelmerdine
- 6 Lady Mozeley, J. Muir
- 7 Andromeda, J. Knott

Flamed Roses.

- 1 Unique, J. Barratt
- 2 Fairy Queen, W. Pickering
- 3 Pevta, J. Barratt
- 4 Rose Ann, J. Knott

- 5 Lady Crewe, T. Macgregor
- 6 Aglaia, J. Miller
- 7 Vulcan, T. Macgregor

Bizarre Breeders.

- 1 Seldon, J. Barratt
- 2 S. R. Hill, J. Wilde
- 3 Dutch Catafalque, J. Barratt
- 4 Earl Radnor, W. Pickering

Byblæmen Breeders.

- 1 Maid of Orleans, W. Shelmerdine
- 2 Godet Parfait, G. Chadwick
- 3 Lancashire Hero, W. Pickering
- 4 Verpoort, J. Barratt

Rose Breeders.

- 1 Juliet, W. Wood
- 2 Jane of Arragon, J. Barratt
- 3 Lady Crewe, ditto
- 4 Seedling, ditto

Selfs.

- Min d'Or, T. Macgregor
White Flag, W. Pickering

LEVENSHULME TULIP MEETING.

At the Jolly Carters.

Premier Prize.—Sanzio and Charles X., Whittaker.

Kettles.—1. Captain White, Charles X., Thompson. 2. Charles X., Edgar, Tomlinson. 3. Charles X., Magnum Bonum, E. Cash. 4. Unique, Baguet, Grimshaw. 5. Lord Lilford, Maid of Athens, Knott.

Maiden Kettle.—Unique, Lord Lilford, Knight.

Feathered Bizarres.

- 1 Charles X., Whittaker
- 2 Lord Lilford, Knight
- 3 Magnum Bonum, Tomlinson
- 4 Surpass Catafalque, ditto
- 5 Sanzio, ditto
- 6 Unknown, Thompson
- 7 Rising Sun, Tomlinson

Flamed Bizarres.

- 1 Lustre, Whittaker
- 2 Charles X., Tomlinson
- 3 Albion, Wood
- 4 Magnum, Tomlinson
- 5 Pilot, Thompson
- 6 Crown Prince, E. Cash
- 7 Polyphemus, Whittaker

Feathered Byblæmens.

- 1 Beauty, Whittaker
- 2 Bienfait, Whitehead
- 3 Baguet, Knight
- 4 Bridesmaid, Thompson
- 5 Mungo, Whittaker
- 6 Grotius, ditto
- 7 Unknown, Oldham

Flamed Byblæmens.

- 1 Lord Denman, Whittaker
- 2 Seedling, Robinson
- 3 Unknown, Whittaker

- 4 Magnus, Grimshaw
- 5 Bienfait, Wood
- 6 Unknown, Knott
- 7 Sable Rex, Tomlinson

Feathered Roses.

- 1 Heroine, Tomlinson
- 2 Count, ditto
- 3 Bion, ditto
- 4 Lady Crewe, Robinson
- 5 Aglaia, Grimshaw
- 6 Andromeda, Thompson
- 7 Unknown, Grimshaw

Flamed Roses.

- 1 Aglaia, Whittaker
- 2 Unique, Tomlinson
- 3 Triomphe Royale, ditto
- 4 Lady Stanley, Whittaker
- 5 Vesta, ditto
- 6 Ponceau Brillant, Thompson
- 7 Lord Hill, Grimshaw

Breeders.

Queen of England (rose), Whittaker
Pompe Funebre (bizarre), ditto
Bridesmaid (byblæmen), ditto

Selfs.

White Flag, Tomlinson
Min d'Or, Thompson

TULIP SHOW.

At Mrs. Kitchen's, Orange Tree Inn, Butley, near Macclesfield, May 30.

Premier Prize (silver cup).—Charles X., Bienfait, Comte de Vergennes, Polyphemus, unknown, Camillus, G. Chadwick.

Second Best Pan.—Charles X., Bienfait, Walworth, Duke of Devonshire, Lord Vernon, unknown, D. Fotts.

Best Ban of Breeders.—Duke of Kent (bizarre), Godet Parfait (byblœmen), Fanny (rose), D. Potts.

Feathered Bizarres.

- 1 Charles X., D. Potts
- 2 Charles X., Nunnerley
- 3 Magnum Bonum, ditto
- 4 Royal Gem, ditto
- 5 Pag'ini, ditto
- 6 Perfector, Mrs. W. Kitchen
- 7 Trafalgar, G. Chadwick
- 8 Surpasse Catafalque, W. Kitchen
- 9 Sanzio, Nunnerley
- 10 Duke of Devonshire, ditto

Flamed Bizarres.

- 1 Sanzio, Nunnerley
- 2 Ditto, ditto
- 3 Duke of Devonshire, D. Potts
- 4 Lustre, M. Grimditch
- 5 Don Cossack, Nunnerley
- 6 Flamme de Guerre, M. Grimditch
- 7 Earl of Nottingham, D. Potts
- 8 Polyphemus, Mrs. W. Kitchen
- 9 Charles X., M. Grimditch
- 10 Colbert, Nunnerley

Feathered Byblœmens.

- 1 Lord Gough, Nunnerley
- 2 Bienfait, W. Kitchen
- 3 Lord Gough, Nunnerley
- 4 Violet Amiable, W. Kitchen
- 5 Chellaston Breeder, ditto
- 6 Edgar, Nunnerley
- 7 Lord Denman, D. Potts
- 8 Unknown, ditto
- 9 Ambassador, D. Chadwick
- 10 Delight, ditto

Flamed Byblœmens.

- 1 Lord Vernon, D. Potts
- 2 Lord Denman, Nunnerley
- 3 Bienfait, D. Potts
- 4 Sir Henry Pottinger, ditto
- 5 Duc de Florence, Nunnerley
- 6 Harriet, ditto
- 7 La Belle Narene, Mrs. W. Kitchen

- 8 Violet Wallers, D. Potts
- 9 Queen of May, M. Grimditch
- 10 Godet Parfait, D. Potts

Feathered Roses.

- 1 Lady Crewe, Nunnerley
- 2 Heroine, ditto
- 3 Lady Crewe, ditto
- 4 Aglaia, W. Kitchen
- 5 Comte de Vergennes, ditto
- 6 Walworth, D. Potts
- 7 Dolittle, G. Chadwick
- 8 Voerhelm, Nunnerley
- 9 Unknown, Hibbert
- 10 Friendship, ditto

Flamed Roses.

- 1 Aglaia, G. Chadwick
- 2 Aglaia, D. Potts
- 3 Unique, ditto
- 4 La Vandicken, ditto
- 5 Thalestris, ditto
- 6 Andromeda, ditto
- 7 Ponceau Brillant, ditto
- 8 Camillus, Nunnerley
- 9 Amelia, ditto
- 10 Lady Catherine Gordon, ditto

Bizarre Breeders.

- 1 Pilot, Nunnerley
- 2 Devonshire, W. Kitchen
- 3 Willison's King, ditto

Byblœmen Breeders.

- 1 Godet Parfait, W. Kitchen
- 2 Miss Forrest, Nunnerley
- 3 Orleans, W. Kitchen

Rose Breeders.

- 1 Lord Derby, W. Kitchen
- 2 Lady Leicester, M. Grimditch
- 3 Village Maid, Nunnerley

Sells.

- Min d'Or, Hibbert
- White Perfection, ditto

TULIP SHOW.

At Mr. J. Beard's, Holly Bush Inn, Bollington, near Macclesfield, May 31.

Premier Prize.—Unique, Heroine, J. Hooley

Best Pan of Breeders.—Unknown (bizarre), General Picton (byblœmen), Village Maid (rose), J. Hooley.

Feathered Bizarres.

- 1 Surpass Catafalque, T. Oldfield
- 2 Blucher, ditto
- 3 Charles X., P. Hibbert
- 4 Trafalgar, T. Oldfield
- 5 Duke of Devonshire, P. Hibbert
- 6 Rufus, J. Hooley
- 7 Gold Cup, P. Hibbert
- 8 Surpass Catafalque, T. Oldfield

Flamed Bizarres.

- 1 Lustre, J. Hooley
- 2 Polyphemus, J. Oldfield
- 3 Albion, P. Hibbert
- 4 Truth, T. Oldfield
- 5 Flamme de Guerre, ditto
- 6 Fullison's Hampden, P. Hooley

- 7 Rufus, T. Oldfield

- 8 Lustre, J. Hooley

Feathered Byblœmens.

- 1 Bienfait, P. Hibbert
- 2 Bienfait, T. Oldfield
- 3 Lancashire Hero, ditto
- 4 Edgar, ditto
- 5 Washington, P. Hibbert
- 6 Friendship, T. Oldfield
- 7 Sir H. Pottinger, P. Hibbert
- 8 La Belle Narene, J. Hooley

Flamed Byblœmens.

- 1 Baguet, T. Oldfield
- 2 Magnificent, P. Hibbert
- 3 Pyramide d'Egypt, ditto
- 4 Baguet, J. Hooley

- 5 Buckley's Flora, J. Hooley
 - 6 Sable Rex, ditto
 - 7 La Belle Narene, ditto
 - 8 Prince Frederick, T. Oldfield
- Feathered Roses.*
- 1 Hero of the Nile, T. Oldfield
 - 2 Andromeda, P. Hibbert
 - 3 Prince de Austria, J. Hooley
 - 4 Lady Lilford, P. Hibbert
 - 5 Aglaia, ditto
 - 6 Unknown, ditto
 - 7 Duc de Bronte, J. Hooley
 - 8 Dolittle, P. Hibbert
- Flamed Roses.*
- 1 Unique, P. Hibbert

- 2 Unique, J. Hooley
 - 3 Vesta, T. Oldfield
 - 4 Thalestris, J. Hooley
 - 5 Walworth, T. Oldfield
 - 6 Aglaia, ditto
 - 7 Lady Crewe, P. Hibbert
 - 8 Lord Hill, ditto
- Breeders.*
- Unknown (bizarre), P. Hibbert
 Roland (byblœmen), T. Oldfield
 Newcastle (rose), J. Hooley
- Sels.*
- White Flag, T. Oldfield
 Min d'Or, P. Hibbert

GREAT SOUTH LANCASHIRE TULIP SOCIETY.

At the house of Mrs. Booth, Nottingham Castle Inn, Denton, June 7.

Judges.—Mr. H. Brown, Mr. D. Potts, and Mr. U. Chadwick.

A silver cup, value £5, was awarded to T. Leech, for the best stand of six rectified flowers, viz., Charles X., Polyphemus, Baguet, Flora, Heroine, Triomphe Royale, 2. Charles X., Don Cossack, Sir H. Pottinger, Flora, Duchess of Newcastle, Aglaia, W. Peacock, Esq.

Feathered premier, Charles X., T. Leech. Flamed premier, Dutch Catafalque, J. Peacock, Esq. Breeder premier, Queen of England, L. Ashmole.

Maiden Prizes.—1. Lady Crewe, W. Oldham. 2. Bienfait, S. Brown. 3. Sanzio, T. Walker.

Feathered Bizarres.

- 1 Charles X., T. Leech
- 2 Sidney, W. Peacock, Esq.
- 3 Duke of Devonshire, J. Turner, Esq.
- 4 Dutch Catafalque, W. Peacock, Esq.
- 5 Pass Catafalque, P. Howard
- 6 Seedling, J. Baxandale, Esq.
- 7 Lord Lilford, J. Hart
- 8 Seedling, L. Ashmole

Flamed Bizarres

- 1 Dutch Catafalque, J. Peacock, Esq.
- 2 Sanzio, ditto
- 3 Charles X., L. Ashmole
- 4 Paul Pry, Z. Peacock, Esq.
- 5 Sir Colin Campbell, J. Hart
- 6 Truth, S. Barlow, Esq.
- 7 Polyphemus, J. Sidley
- 8 Caliph, J. Peacock, Esq.

Feathered Byblœmens.

- 1 Edgar, J. Naylor
- 2 Bienfait, W. Peacock, Esq.
- 3 Washington, J. Naylor
- 4 Violet Amiable, S. Ardern
- 5 Catherine, J. Sidley
- 6 Sancta Sophia, Z. Peacock, Esq.
- 7 Maid of Athens, J. Naylor
- 8 Beauty, W. Peacock, Esq.

Flamed Byblœmens.

- 1 Incomparable, J. Sidley
- 2 Flora, W. Peacock, Esq.
- 3 Democrat, S. Barlow, Esq.
- 4 Lavinia, ditto
- 5 Ashtonian, J. Baxandale, Esq.
- 6 Imperial, J. Hart
- 7 Bienfait, S. Barlow, Esq.
- 8 Violet Wallers, S. Ardern

Feathered Roses.

- 1 Lady Crewe, R. Peacock, Esq.
- 2 Heroine, S. Barlow, Esq.

- 3 Willison's Gem, Z. Peacock, Esq.
- 4 Bion, S. Barlow, Esq.
- 5 Duke of Newcastle, R. Peacock, Esq.
- 6 Rosy Queen, J. Turner, Esq.
- 7 Duchess of Sutherland, J. Naylor
- 8 Andromeda, T. Leech

Flamed Roses.

- 1 La Vandicken, S. Ardern
- 2 Aglaia, J. Sidley
- 3 Triomphe Royale, S. Ardern
- 4 Lady Catherine Gordon, ditto
- 5 Thalestris, J. Naylor
- 6 Vesta, R. Peacock, Esq.
- 7 Camuse, T. Leech
- 8 Unique, W. Peacock, Esq.

Bizarre Breeders.

- 1 Seedling, J. Turner, Esq.
- 2 Earl Radnor, J. Peacock, Esq.
- 3 Dutch Catafalque, T. Leech
- 4 Seedling, S. Ardern
- 5 Grace Darling, W. Peacock, Esq.
- 6 Polyphemus, J. Peacock, Esq.

Byblœmen Breeders.

- 1 Princess Royal, W. Peacock, Esq.
- 2 Chellaston Beauty, Z. Peacock, Esq.
- 3 Miss Forrest, J. Peacock, Esq.
- 4 Martha, J. Naylor
- 5 Sir H. Pottinger, J. Peacock, Esq.
- 6 John, J. Turner, Esq.

Rose Breeders

- 1 Queen of England, L. Ashmole
- 2 Unknown, J. Hart
- 3 Annie Macgregor, J. Turner, Esq.
- 4 Seedling, ditto
- 5 Lady Catherine Gordon, J. Sidley
- 6 Celestial, S. Barlow, Esq.

Sels

- Min d'Or, J. Baxandale, Esq.
- White Perfection, J. Naylor

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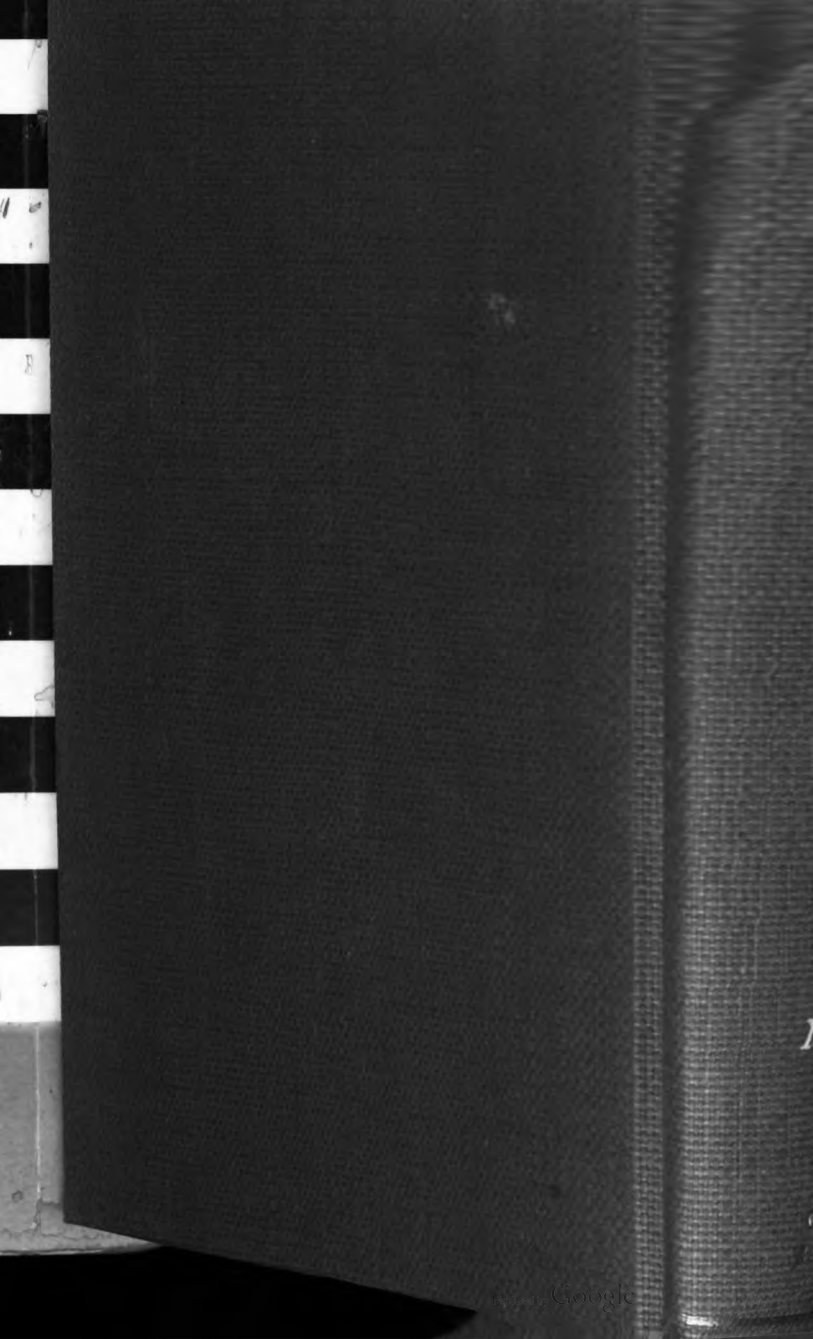
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